

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, March 19, 2014

NTSB examine crash scene



Investigators and emergency personnel look over the aftermath of a news helicopter crash Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in Seattle, Wash.

Associated Press

MANUEL VALDES
PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A news helicopter crashed into a street and burst into flames Tuesday near Seattle's

Space Needle, killing two people on board, badly injuring a man in a car and sending plumes of black smoke over the city during the morning commute. The chopper was taking

off from a helipad on KOMO-TV's roof when it went down at a busy downtown intersection and hit three vehicles, starting them on fire and spewing burning fuel down the street.

Kristopher Reynolds, a contractor working nearby, said he saw the helicopter lift about 5 feet (1.5 meters) off the low-rise building before it started to tilt. The chopper looked like it was

trying to correct itself when it took a dive.

"Next thing I know, it went into a ball of flames," Reynolds said.

Continued on page 3



Big Egg Hunt

This undated image provided by HL Group shows an egg designed by Martin Handford, the creator of "Where's Waldo." The egg will be among 275 eggs hidden around New York City April 1-17, 2014. The public will be invited to find the over 2 feet tall eggs as part of an interactive contest called The Faberge Big Egg Hunt.



RUSSIA- CRIMEA

Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a treaty for Crimea to join Russia during a signing ceremony after addressing the Federal Assembly in the Kremlin in Moscow, Tuesday, March 18, 2014. President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday signed a treaty to incorporate Crimea into Russia, describing the move as the restoration of historic injustice and a necessary response to what he called the Western encroachment on Russia's vital interests.

Ex-Guatemala president pleads guilty in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Guatemala's ex-president pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge Tuesday in the U.S., saying he accepted \$2.5 million in bribes to continue to recognize Taiwan diplomatically when he took his government's top position more than a decade ago. Alfonso Portillo, Guatemala's president from 2000 to 2004, entered the plea in federal court in New York City. In a deal with prosecutors, the 62-year-old pleaded guilty to a single count of money laundering conspiracy and agreed not to appeal any sentence between four and six years in length.

Sentencing was scheduled for June 23.

"I knew at the time that what I was doing was wrong, and I apologize for my crimes, take responsibility for them, and accept the consequences of my actions," Portillo told a U.S. District judge.

Portillo was extradited to the United States in May and remains in custody.

Brian Su, deputy director general of Taipei's economic and cultural office,

said,

"The Taiwanese government has correctly managed all of its foreign aid programs and has consistently attached the utmost importance to the proper handling of aid on the recipients' end." He said Ma Ying-jeou, Taiwan's president since 2008, "rejects checkbook diplomacy."

Aided by a Spanish interpreter, Portillo read from a statement as he described his crime, saying he accepted the money from December 1999, shortly before he became president, until August 2002.

He said he received the money at various locations in Guatemala.

"I understood that, in exchange for these payments, I would use my influence to have Guatemala continue to recognize Taiwan diplomatically," Portillo said.

He said he agreed with certain Guatemalan bankers and others to move the \$2.5 million through U.S. banks, with some of the proceeds eventually moving to accounts in Miami and Washington, "know-



In this Nov. 17, 2011 file photo, Guatemala's former President Alfonso Portillo listens to a journalist's question as he arrives to a court in Guatemala City.

Associated Press

ing that these transactions were designed, in part, to conceal and disguise the source and ownership of the money."

Portillo said he knew that some of the proceeds from Taiwan were transferred to an account in Europe and that those funds were further disbursed to different accounts and financial institutions in Europe until 2005.

Portillo said that accepting money to recognize a country violates Guatemalan criminal law.

Portillo said he knew that all of the money from Taiwan came from an account at the International Bank of China in New York City.

The judge noted that the role of the bank gave the court jurisdiction over the case.

Portillo's lawyer, David M. Rosenfield, told the judge Portillo has been in custody for more than four years, most of it in Guatemala. It is not clear whether some or all of his time in custody will be credited toward any prison sentence.

The judge warned Portillo that it was almost certain he would be deported once he serves his sentence.

In a statement, Rosenfield called his client "a good and decent person, with an abiding love for the people and country of Guatemala."

la." He said Portillo made a mistake, "an aberration in an otherwise unblemished life."

After leaving office in 2004, Portillo fled to Mexico where he received a work visa and was a financial adviser for a construction materials company.

He was extradited from Mexico to Guatemala in 2008 to face embezzlement charges at home and remained free until he was arrested on Jan. 26, 2010, on the U.S. extradition request. He was captured at a beach preparing to flee Guatemala by boat. He was exonerated on the Guatemalan charge in 2011. □

Judge bars 9/11 mastermind's testimony in NYC

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The self-described architect of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks will not be allowed to testify in the terrorism trial of Osama bin Laden's son-in-law, a federal judge in New York ruled Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan rejected a request by defense lawyers to call Khalid Sheikh Mohammed as a witness at the trial of Sulaiman Abu Ghaith using live,

closed-circuit video from Guantanamo Bay, where Mohammed is imprisoned. Abu Ghaith is the highest-level al-Qaida figure to be tried in the U.S. since the Sept. 11 attacks. His



This image made from video provided by Al-Jazeera shows Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, Osama bin Laden's son-in-law and spokesman.

Associated Press

trial is scheduled to resume Wednesday.

The judge told the defense that Mohammed's testi-

mony would be irrelevant because there was no evidence that Mohammed and Abu Ghaith had ever met or even been in the same country.

He also criticized Abu Ghaith's lawyers for making the request at such a late stage.

Abu Ghaith has pleaded not guilty to charges he conspired to kill Americans and aided al-Qaida as the terror group's spokesman after the Sept. 11 attacks. The 48-year-old onetime imam at a Kuwaiti mosque was brought to New York from Turkey last year.

The judge's ruling means the jury also will be barred from considering a 14-page statement Moham-

med provided in response to questions from Abu Ghaith's lawyers.

In the statement, Mohammed said Abu Ghaith had no military role in al-Qaida. The defense has argued that Abu Ghaith had no knowledge of pending al-Qaida attacks when he warned on a widely circulated video after the 2001 attacks that "the storm of airplanes will not abate."

Mohammed said he never personally spoke to Abu Ghaith about plots to blow up U.S. airplanes with shoe bombs in December 2001, when Mohammed headed al-Qaida's operations conducted outside of Afghanistan. □

FATAL SCENE

Continued from front

Witnesses reported hearing unusual noises coming from the helicopter as it took off after refueling, said Dennis Hogenson, deputy regional chief with the National Transportation Safety Board in Seattle. They also said the aircraft rotated before it crashed near the Seattle Center campus, which is home to the Space Needle, restaurants and performing arts centers.

Mayor Ed Murray noted the normally bustling Seattle Center was relatively quiet at the time. Had it been a busier day, "this would have been a much larger tragedy," he said.

Murray added the city will review its policies about permitting helicopter pads in response to the crash. Investigators were working to document the scene and clear the wreckage, and will examine all possibilities as they determine what caused the crash, Hogenson said.

A preliminary analysis is expected in five days, followed by a fuller report with a probable cause in up to a year.

KOMO identified the pilot as Gary Pfitzner, of Is-saquah. The other man killed in the crash was Bill Strothman, a former long-time KOMO photographer. Both men were working for Cahokia, Illinois-based Helicopters Inc., the leasing company that owned the Eurocopter AS350 helicopter.

Firefighters who arrived at the scene before 8 a.m. found a "huge black cloud of smoke" and two cars and a pickup truck engulfed in flames, Seattle Fire Department spokesman Kyle Moore said.

Fuel running down the street also was on fire, and crews worked to stop it before it entered the sewer, Moore said.

An injured man managed to free himself from a burning car and was taken to Harborview Medical Center, Moore said. The man was on fire, and a police officer helped him to the ground and put out the

flames, police spokeswoman Renee Witt said.

Richard Newman, 38, suffered burns on his lower back and arm, covering up to 20 percent of his body, hospital spokeswoman Susan Gregg said. He was in serious condition in the intensive care unit and likely will require surgery, she said.

Two others who were in cars that were struck by the helicopter were uninjured. One of them, a woman, went to a police station and talked to officers, while a man from the pickup walked to a nearby McDonald's restaurant. Police later located him unhurt.

Only the helicopter's blue tail end could be identified among the wreckage strewn across the street.

Murray said the crash site could be closed for three to five days while officials with the NTSB and Federal Aviation Administration probe what happened.

Lewis said it wasn't the regular KOMO helicopter but a temporary replacement for one that is in the shop for an upgrade.

KOMO is a block from the Space Needle and is surrounded by high-rise office and apartment buildings. Workers at the station rushed to the window when they heard the crash. KOMO reporters were then in the position of covering their colleagues' deaths.

One of them, Denise Whitaker, said on the street shortly after the crash: "It is definitely a tragic scene down here. It is a difficult time for all of us this morning."

News anchor Dan Lewis described Strothman as someone "who really knew how his pictures could tell a million words."

"He was just a true gentleman," Lewis said on the air.

"We're going to miss you guys. And thanks so much for all that you gave to us."

The Strothman family said in a statement that the former KOMO photographer was a "great man, a kind soul, a devoted husband, a loving father and broth-



A firetruck sits by the aftermath of a news helicopter crash Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in Seattle, Wash. A KOMO-TV helicopter crashed into a city street near Seattle's Space Needle, killing two people and critically injuring a person in a car on the ground.

Associated Press

er."

Other cities have experienced helicopter crashes as TV stations rush to cover the news from above major cities.

Two news helicopters collided in midair in Phoenix in 2007 as the aircraft covered a police chase, sending fiery wreckage plummeting onto a park. Four

people in the helicopters were killed.

The crash prompted changes at the stations in how they operated their helicopter crews. □

Earthquake strongly felt across Los Angeles

CHRISTOPHER WEBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A pre-dawn earthquake rolled across the Los Angeles basin Monday, rattling nerves and shaking buildings along a 150-mile (240-kilometer) swath of Southern California but causing no major damage.

The 4.4-magnitude quake was centered 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from Encino and 15 miles (24 kilometers) west-northwest of the downtown civic center, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

USGS seismologist Robert Graves called it a "typical" Southern California quake and said expectations were that damage would be slight,

if it occurred at all.

Los Angeles police and fire officials said there were no immediate reports of damage.

Encino resident Joann Smith described the initial jolt as a "big crash" that shook her house.



Egill Hauksson a Caltech Seismologist talks about an early morning earthquake during a news conference at Caltech in Pasadena, Calif., on Monday, March 17, 2014.

Associated Press

"My dog got out of bed, and she came looking for me," Smith said. "She was shivering terribly."

The 6:25 a.m. quake occurred at a depth of about 5 miles (8 kilometers). There were several aftershocks, including one of 2.7 magnitude that caused very minor shaking,

Graves said.

The quake was felt as far away as Orange County

to the south and Santa Barbara to the north.

It was one of the largest to hit Los Angeles since the 6.7-magnitude Northridge quake killed several dozen people and caused \$25 billion in damage two decades ago, USGS seismologist Lucy Jones told KABC-TV.

A magnitude-4.7 quake struck near Inglewood in 2009, she said. □

Obama gives Medal of Honor to 24 vets from 3 wars

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Twenty-four ethnic or minority U.S. soldiers who performed bravely under fire in three of the nation's wars finally received on Tuesday the Medal of Honor that the government concluded should have been awarded a long time ago. The servicemen — Hispanics, Jews and African-Americans — were identified following a congressionally mandated review to ensure that eligible recipients of the country's highest recognition for valor were not bypassed due to prejudice. Only three of the 24 were alive for President Barack Obama to drape the medals and ribbons around their necks.



President Barack Obama applauds, from left, Staff Sgt. Melvin Morris, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Rodela, and Spc. Santiago J. Erevia after being awarded the Medal of Honor during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

Associated Press

bons around their necks.

"Today we have the chance to set the record straight," Obama said. "No nation is perfect, but here in America we confront our imperfections and face a sometimes painful past, including the truth that some of these soldiers fought and died for a country that did not always see them as equal."

The three surviving recipients — Vietnam veterans Jose Rodela, Melvin Morris and Santiago Erevia — received a prolonged standing ovation at Obama's side, their faces set in somber acknowledgement of the honor.

Rodela, now of San Antonio, was a 31-year-old company commander of a Special Forces strike group on Sept. 1, 1969, in Phuoc Long Province, Vietnam, when he and his company of Cambodian soldiers whom he had helped recruit came under fire from North Vietnamese Army troops. According to his Medal of Honor citation and supporting documents, the battle lasted 18 hours and 11 men in his company were killed and 33 others wounded.

The citation states that late in the battle, Rodela "was the only member of his company who was moving and he began to run from one position to the

next, checking for casualties and moving survivors into different positions in an attempt to form a stable defense line. Throughout the battle, in spite of his wounds, Rodela repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to attend to the fallen and eliminate an enemy rocket position."

In an interview with the Army News Service last December, he said simply, "We trained for this and I would have done it again." Morris was a staff sergeant during combat operations on Sept. 17, 1969, near Chi Lang, South Vietnam. According to the Pentagon, Morris led soldiers across enemy lines to retrieve his team sergeant, who had been killed. He single-handedly destroyed an enemy force hidden in bunkers that had pinned down his battalion. Morris was shot three times as he ran with American casualties.

Morris received the Distinguished Service Cross in April 1970. That same month, he returned to Vietnam for his second tour.

"I never really did worry about decorations," Morris told The Associated Press last month. But he said he fell to his knees when he received the surprise call from Obama with news that he was to be honored. Erevia was cited for courage while serving as a radio-telephone operator on May 21, 1969, during a search-and-clear mission near Tam Ky, South Vietnam. As for the medal, he told the publication Soldier Live last month, "I'm only thankful I'm getting it while I'm alive."

Tuesday's mass ceremony, the largest since World War II, was the result of an Army review conducted under a directive from Congress in the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. The law required that the record of each Jewish-American and Hispanic-American veteran who received a Service Cross during or after World War II be reviewed for possible upgrade to the Medal of Honor.□

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14 charged in online child exploitation network



U.S. Attorney Kenneth Allen Polite Jr., right, accompanied by US Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner Thomas S. Winkowski, left, and Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson speaks during a news conference at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) headquarters in Washington, Tuesday, March 18, 2014, where they discussed the results of a international operation involving an underground child pornography website.

Associated Press

ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fourteen men were charged with operating an online child exploitation network that investigators said preyed upon hundreds of boys across the United States and overseas, authorities announced Tuesday.

Law enforcement officials said the arrests were part of a worrisome trend in which children are being enticed by adults to post sexually explicit images of themselves that are then shared online. In this case, authorities said, users of an underground network posed online as girls to coerce boys into sharing with them child pornography images.

"These alleged perpetrators preyed upon the most innocent, most vulnerable members of our society with no regard to the immediate or lasting harm they caused to their victims and their families," Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said at a news conference.

The investigation, called "Operation Round Table," was led by the U.S. Immigration and Customs En-

forcement, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and federal authorities in Louisiana, where the alleged leader of the operation lives.

The roughly 250 victims were spread across 39 states and five other countries — Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada and New Zealand. Most were boys between 13 and 15. Two victims were 3 or younger, authorities said.

The pornographic images were shared on an underground website on the Tor network, an online anonymity network that masks the location of servers and conceals an Internet user's location. The subscription-based website operated from about June 2012 until June 2013, had more than 27,000 members and shared more than 2,000 webcam-captured videos, mostly of young boys, authorities said.

Eleven of the 14 men, including the man authorities say was the administrator of the network, are being prosecuted in Louisiana. The other three are being charged in New York, Colorado and Wisconsin.

Authorities accuse Jonathan Johnson, of Abita Springs, La., of being the

leader of the operation. They say he admitted creating multiple fake female personas from his home

and encouraged others to do the same in an effort to entice boys to produce sexually explicit images of themselves. The 27-year-old also instructed members and uploaders on how to avoid getting caught by law enforcement, prosecutors say.

Online court records show Johnson was charged last month through a criminal information, a document that typically signals a guilty plea is near. A change of plea hearing is scheduled for March 27, according to the records. Johnson has been in custody since his arrest last June and faces from 20 years to life in prison.

A lawyer for Johnson did not immediately return a call seeking comment on Tuesday. □

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NYC to host smartphone hunt for giant Easter eggs

BETH J. HARPAZ
AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City is getting ready for an old-fashioned Easter egg hunt with a 21st-century twist: The public will hunt for the eggs as part of an interactive contest using a smartphone app.

Nearly 275 egg sculptures will be hidden around the city April 1-17 as part of The Faberge Big Egg Hunt. The eggs are about 2 1/2 feet tall (or about 3/4 meter) and were created by famous artists and designers like Tommy Hilfiger and Jeff Koons.

A free downloadable smartphone application will allow the public to check in each time an egg is found. The eggs' locations will remain secret until 10 people use the app to check in at



This undated image provided by HL Group shows an egg created by designer Benjamin Shine. The egg will be among 275 eggs hidden around New York City April 1 to April 17, 2014. The public will be invited to find the over 2 feet tall eggs as part of an interactive contest called The Faberge Big Egg Hunt.

Associated Press

an egg. At that point its location will appear on an interactive map, becoming public. Participants will be eligible for prizes.

Each egg is unique. In addition to Hilfiger and Koons, egg designers include architect Zaha Hadid, "Where's Waldo" creator Martin Handford, artist Julian Schnabel, Lego brick artist Nathan Sawaya and fashion designers Carolina Herrera and Ralph Lauren. From April 18-25, all the eggs will be gathered for a free exhibit at Rockefeller Center. They'll then be auctioned off by Sotheby's and the online auctioneer Paddle8 to benefit Elephant Family, a conservation organization, and Studio in a School, a program that brings visual arts to underserved New York City kids.

Twenty-four of the eggs were made by students participating in Studio in a School programs.

Mini-replica eggs and a children's book about the hunt will be sold at Saks Fifth Avenue, pop-up locations around the city and online. London hosted a Big Egg Hunt in 2012, while Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and Dublin hosted them in 2013.

The original Faberge eggs were ornate bejeweled egg-shaped works of art made for the families of Russian czars in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of the Faberge eggs, about the size of a real egg, opened up to reveal elaborate tiny treasures inside. Some are now displayed by museums around the world. □

Men avoid jail time in ancient rock toppling

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Two Utah men removed from their Boy Scout leadership positions after a viral video showed them toppling an ancient rock formation pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges Tuesday and avoided jail time.

Glenn Taylor, 45, and David Hall, 42, appeared in Utah's 7th District Court to enter their pleas under a deal with prosecutors. The two men from Highland were sentenced to a year of probation and ordered to pay fines and restitution, which has not yet been determined, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

State prosecutors are still trying to put a price on the amount of damage caused in October to the mushroom-shaped sandstone pillar, which park officials said had been standing for much of human



David Hall, standing, enters his guilty plea during a court hearing Tuesday, March 18, 2014, for Hall and his co-defendant, Glenn Taylor, seated far right.

Associated Press

history, if not longer. The formation was estimated to be about 170 million years old.

A video shot by Hall and posted on YouTube shows

Taylor dislodging the formation at Goblin Valley State Park in central Utah that's filled with thousands of the pillars called "hoodoos." Hall, Taylor and a third man were seen cheering and slapping hands after the formation toppled. The men claimed it might have been ready to fall and kill a visitor. Both were later stripped of their Boy Scout positions.

Scott Card, an attorney for Taylor, told the Tribune that the restitution will be thousands of dollars and will go toward putting up signs in the park to warn others against damaging the formations.

Both men were originally facing felony mischief charges. If Taylor and Hall meet the requirements of their probation, the offenses will later be removed from their records. □

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On the media buffet, people still seek meaty news

CONNIE CASS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans of all ages still pay heed to serious news even as they seek out the lighter stuff, choosing their own way across a media landscape that no longer relies on front pages and evening newscasts to dictate what's worth knowing, according to a new study from the Media Insight Project.

The findings burst the myth of the media "bubble" — the idea that no one pays attention to anything beyond a limited sphere of interest, like celebrities or college basketball or Facebook posts.

"This idea that somehow we're all going down narrow paths of interest and that many people are just sort of amusing themselves to death and not interested in the news and the world around them? That is not the case," said Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute, which teamed with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research on the project.

Americans today are nibbling from a news buffet spread across 24-hour television, websites, radio, newspapers and magazines, and social networks.

Three-fourths of Americans see or hear news daily, including 6 of 10 adults under age 30, the study found. Nearly everyone — about 9 in 10 people — said they enjoy keeping up with the news. And more than 6 in 10 say that wherever they find the news, they prefer

it to come directly from a news organization.

The study found relatively few differences by age, political leanings or wealth when it comes to the topics people care about. Traffic and weather are nearly universal interests. Majorities express interest in natural disasters, local news, politics, the economy, crime and foreign coverage.

With so many sources and technologies, 60 percent of Americans say it's easier to keep up than it was just five years ago.

But at the same time, Jane Hall, an associate professor of journalism at American University, said no one is setting the national news agenda the way The New York Times and network evening news once did. "I do lament those times in which something could become so important that we all watched," Hall said. "But that doesn't mean we aren't all engaged now." If you're under 30, the future of news is in your hands, literally.

Three out of 4 young adults who carry cellphones use them to check the news. Most owners of tablet computers also use them to get updates; young people are the ones most likely to have tablets.

But the young think of news differently than previous generations did, said Rachel Davis Mersey, an associate professor at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism. Their broader definition includes anything happening right now, whether it's sports or enter-



In this Dec. 6, 2013, file photo, a subway rider in New York reads a newspaper featuring news of the death of South African leader Nelson Mandela.

Associated Press

tainment or politics.

"We don't see young people thinking of it as a civic obligation to keep up with news," Mersey said. "We see young people including news as part of a very complex, very diverse, very large media diet that includes a diversity of sources, a diversity of platforms and really goes 24/7."

The Media Insight Project study found that 20-somethings are likelier to follow up when they hear something big is happening.

"They're the sort of on-demand news generation," Rosenstiel said.

Americans get that first word an assortment of ways. Traditional news operations still dominate, but word of mouth, email and text messages, Facebook and Twitter, and electronic news alerts also come into play.

Most people say they have more confidence in a story

when they get it directly from a news-gathering operation. But their media habit doesn't include paying for it — only about a fourth have paid subscriptions.

Nine out of 10 watched some type of TV news in the previous week. Newspapers, including online editions, and radio news each reached more than half the country. Online-only news sources such as Yahoo! News and Buzzfeed reached nearly half.

People flit across the news landscape, depending on what they're seeking, the study found.

Wonder why local newscasts seem fixated on crime, traffic, weather and health warnings? That's why viewers go there.

Cable TV channels draw the most people looking for foreign news, politics, social issues and business stories.

Readers prefer newspapers — online or in print — for local news, stories about schools and education, and arts and culture coverage. Among news sources, newspapers have the widest range of topics that attract a significant number of people.

Americans most often turn to specialty media these days for their sports, entertainment news, and science and technology coverage. When a natural disaster strikes, they turn on the TV.

The survey was conducted Jan. 9 through Feb. 16, 2014 by NORC at the University of Chicago with funding from the American Press Institute. It involved landline and cellphone interviews in English or Spanish with 1,492 adults nationwide. Results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points. □

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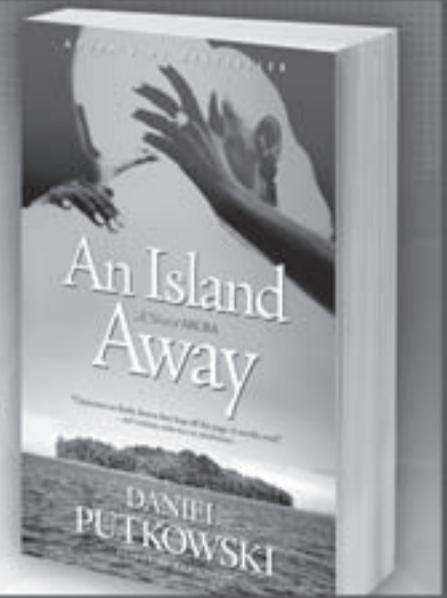
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Candidates vie for Afghan women's vote

KIM GAMEL

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— The candidate strode down the aisle separating hundreds of male and female supporters at a campaign rally in Kabul. She shook hands with the women filling the chairs to her right. To the men on the other side, she simply nodded.

Habiba Sarabi is the most prominent woman running on a ticket in the April 5 election to choose a successor to President Hamid Karzai. Sarabi once served as Afghanistan's first female governor, and her current bid to become Afghanistan's first female vice president is part of an effort to get out the women's vote as candidates scramble for every ballot. Women "can affect the transition, the political transition," she said in an interview after addressing the rally to support Sarabi and her running mate, presidential candidate Zalmay Rassoul. The event was held in a wedding hall in a Kabul district dominated by her ethnic minority Hazara community.

But Sarabi, a 57-year-old former governor of Bamyan province, still must conform to cultural norms in this deeply conservative Islamic society. Her challenge highlights the difficulties facing Afghan women who worry about losing hard-won gains as international combat forces prepare to withdraw from the country by the end of this year.



In this photo taken on Monday, March 17, 2014, female supporters of Afghan vice presidential candidate, Habiba Sarabi and Afghan presidential candidate Zalmay Rassoul hold flags with his photo and two vice presidential candidate's during a campaign rally in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Writing on the flags reads, "vote for Zalmay Rassoul."

Associated Press

Afghan women were granted the right to vote in the constitution adopted after the U.S.-led coalition toppled the Taliban regime in late 2001. Under the Taliban, women were also banned from school and forced to wear the all-encompassing burqa.

But security concerns have marred their participation in previous elections. In areas of the country still controlled by the Taliban, women have been threatened with violence if they vote.

In 2009, many Afghan women registered but then gave their voting cards to male relatives, who ended up casting multiple ballots as polling officials and police conveniently looked away—one of many forms of fraud that tarnished Karzai's re-election.

Although voting cards

are supposed to include a photo for identification, in some areas women refused to be photographed. Naheed Farid, a lawmaker from the western province of Herat, predicted fraud will be rampant this year as well.

"I am so optimistic that we will have more women to vote in this election, but who they vote for and what happens to their vote will be a problem," she said in a telephone interview. "There's lack of awareness that women can decide on their own, and families especially the fathers have an influence, and this is something we can't change now, not this time."

Still, she and others said, there are signs of progress. There are nine candidates in the crowded race, but only three are considered

front-runners — Rassoul; Abdullah Abdullah, who was runner-up to Karzai in the disputed 2009 election; and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.

Gul Makai Safi, the head of the women's council for Abdullah's campaign, said women are streaming into their offices to learn about the process. She expressed concern that women in areas where militants are active will be unable to vote. "We are very hopeful and optimistic that this time the women's vote will decide the fate of the candidates in the election," she said. "Women will bring a change in the result of the election this time."

Ahmadzai's wife, Rula, has even stumped for votes at campaign events, something that is very rare in a country where the current first lady has almost never

appeared in public. There are officially 12 million eligible voters in Afghanistan, according to the Independent Election Commission, but the number of people who go to the polls may be higher because many voter cards were issued in past elections and are unaccounted for. Since registration began last year for next month's election, the commission has documented 3.6 million new voters, including 1.2 million women.

Volunteers have visited villages and districts around the country to inform women about the issues and how their participation could help improve their lives.

But many obstacles remain.

To help prevent suicide bombings and other attacks, police will search voters before they are allowed to enter the polling stations. The Interior Ministry said it is training 13,000 women to search female voters, but there is concern there will be too few of them — and that some women will be turned away from the polls as a result.

And even in Kabul, some women have no idea how to register.

"No one guided us and we haven't got voting cards now. If we could get our voting cards, we could have fulfilled our part in making the government," said Gul Sara, a woman living in an internal refugee camp in the Afghan capital. □

Deported immigrant activist asks for U.S. asylum

OMAR MILLAN
Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — A

Mexican immigrant rights advocate who gained international attention in 2007 when she took refuge in a Chicago church before being deported from the United States has presented herself to U.S. border inspectors and asked for asylum on Tuesday.

Elvira Arellano and 20 other Mexican and Central American migrants crossed into the United States from the border city of Tijuana as part of a protest to demand an overhaul of U.S. immigration laws and an end to deportations.

Arellano was deported to Mexico after seeking sanctuary at a Chicago church for a year. She was deported without her U.S.-born son. Arellano, 38, said she is asking for asylum in the U.S. because she has received threats in Mexico because

of her activism and because she wants a better future for teenage son.

"I am requesting asylum in the United States on humanitarian grounds, because I am a defender of human rights in Mexico and I have received kidnapping and violence threats," Arellano said before entering the U.S. and violence. "But more importantly, because they have separated my son for his chance to have a good upbringing."

Arellano was deported on Aug. 19, 2007, to Tijuana, where she founded a home for deported migrants and began speaking publicly speaking about the complex reality of migrant families and how deportations are making their lives more difficult.

President Barack Obama has to stop the deportations and allow us to be with our families," she said. Demonstrators known as

"dreamers" first claimed asylum at border crossings in Arizona and Texas last year. They call themselves "dreamers" after the Dream Act, failed legislation that was designed to allow some young immigrants to stay in the U.S. U.S. Customs and Border Protection said privacy laws prohibit the agency from saying what happened to those who have tried to enter the country and asked for asylum.

People who claim asylum are interviewed by authorities to determine if their claims are credible, then either released or held pending the outcome of cases. To grant asylum, an immigration judge must find that an applicant suffers persecution or has a well-grounded fear of persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group or political opinion.□



Immigrant rights activist Elvira Arellano waits to enter into the United States where she planned to ask for asylum in Tijuana, Mexico, Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

Associated Press



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Putin signs treaty to add Crimea to map of Russia



Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a treaty for Crimea to join Russia during a signing ceremony after his addressing the Federal Assembly in the Kremlin in Moscow, Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

Associated Press



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VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — In a gilded Kremlin hall used by czars, Vladimir Putin redrew Russia's borders Tuesday by declaring the Crimean Peninsula part of the motherland — provoking a surge of emotion among Russians who lament the loss of empire and denunciations from Western leaders who called Putin a threat to the world.

In an ominous sign, a Ukrainian serviceman and a member of a local self-defense brigade were killed by gunfire in Crimea just hours after Putin's speech, the first fatalities stemming from the Russian takeover. While Putin's action was hailed by jubilant crowds in Moscow and cities across Russia, Ukraine's new government called the Russian president a threat to the "civilized world and international security," and the U.S. and Europe threatened tougher sanctions against Moscow.

Vice President Joe Biden, meeting with anxious European leaders in Poland, denounced what he called "nothing more than a land grab."

"The world has seen through Russia's actions and has rejected the flawed logic," Biden said.

In an emotional 40-minute speech televised live from the Kremlin's chandeliered St. George hall, Putin said the time has come to correct a historical injustice and stand up to Western pressure by incorporating Crimea.

"In people's hearts and minds, Crimea has always been an integral part of Russia," he declared.

He dismissed Western criticism of Sunday's Crimean referendum — in which

residents of the strategic Black Sea peninsula voted overwhelmingly to break off from Ukraine and join Russia — as a manifestation of the West's double standards.

"They tell us that we are violating the norms of international law. First of all, it's good that they at least remember that international law exists," Putin said, pointing at what he called the U.S. trampling of international norms in wars in Serbia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

"Our Western partners led by the United States prefer to proceed not from international law, but the law of might in their practical policies," he said.

Often interrupted by rousing applause, Putin said the rights of ethnic Russians in Ukraine had been abused by the new Ukrainian government and insisted Crimea's vote to join Russia was legitimate and reflected its right for self-determination.

Denouncing what he called Western arrogance, hypocrisy and pressure, Putin warned that the West must drop its stubborn refusal to take Russian concerns into account.

He pointed at NATO's eastward expansion, the alliance's U.S.-led missile defense plans and, finally, the Western moves to pull Ukraine into its orbit.

"If you push a spring too hard, at some point it will spring back," he said. "You always need to remember this."

Only hours after Putin boasted that the Russian takeover of Crimea was conducted without a single shot, a Ukrainian military spokesman said a Ukrainian serviceman was killed and another injured when

a military facility in Crimea was stormed Tuesday by armed men.

A Crimea police spokeswoman, Olga Kondrashova, later was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying that a Ukrainian serviceman and a member of a local self-defense brigade were killed by gunfire coming from the same location, and two other people were wounded.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk declared the violence showed the conflict "has gone from the political stage to the military by the fault of the Russians."

Thousands of Russian troops had overtaken Crimea two weeks before Sunday's hastily called referendum, seizing some Ukrainian military bases, blockading others and pressuring Ukrainian soldiers to surrender their arms and leave. Putin insisted the Russian troops were in Crimea under a treaty with Ukraine that allows Russia to have up to 25,000 troops at its Black Sea fleet base in Crimea.

The West and Ukraine described the Crimean referendum as illegitimate and being held at gunpoint.

Crimea had been part of Russia since the 18th century until Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred it to Ukraine in 1954, a mere formality until the 1991 Soviet breakup left the region part of Ukraine. Putin noted that both Russians and Crimea's majority ethnic Russian population see annexation as correcting a historic insult.

"It was only when Crimea suddenly ended up in a different country that Russia realized that it had not simply been robbed but plundered," Putin said.



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Baucus to promote access for U.S. business in China

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — New U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus embraced the increasingly intertwined relationship between the two countries on Tuesday, saying he would push for fair trade while urging Beijing to respect human rights. Meeting with journalists Tuesday less than 24 hours after arriving in Beijing, Baucus said the U.S.-China relationship is one of the world's most crucial.

"We simply must get it right," the former senator from Montana said.

Underscoring both the opportunities and barriers for U.S. businesses in the China market, Baucus said he wants to promote trade "in a way that is mutually beneficial and ensures a level playing field for American businesses and workers to compete fairly with their Chinese counterparts."

He said Washington wants to partner with China in tackling global challenges from cybersecurity to global warming, while also urg-



U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus briefs journalists at the U.S. embassy in Beijing, China, Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Baucus is the new U.S. Ambassador to China following the departure of Gary Locke.

ing Beijing to "support the laws, norms, values and human rights that undergird the current international system from which we all benefit."

Baucus is taking over from former Washington Gov. Gary Locke, who in his last news conference as ambassador urged Beijing to respect the rights of

peaceful political activists and said Washington is deeply concerned about the fate of a minority scholar charged with separatism. □

Washington and Beijing have also traded barbs over the imprisonment of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo on subversion charges and President Barack Obama's recent meeting with exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who is reviled by China's government as a separatist.

China's authoritarian Communist government brooks no political opposition and is accused by the U.S. of routinely restricting free speech, freedom of religion and political expression.

Complaints over barriers to competition, meanwhile, underpin criticism of America's massive trade deficit with China, which last year reached a record \$318.4 billion.

However, many U.S. businesses are thriving in China's growing consumer market, while almost 220,000 Chinese are currently studying at American colleges and universities, the most from any country. □



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Thai radar might have tracked missing plane

CHRIS BRUMMITT

THANYARAT DOKSONE

Associated Press

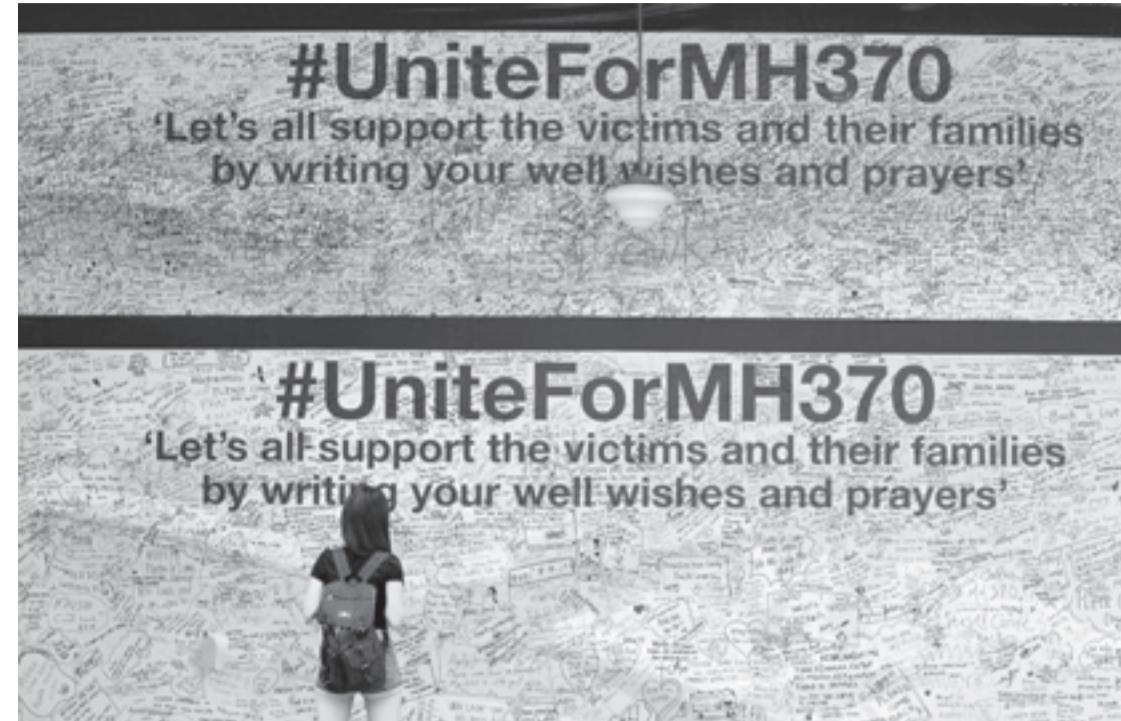
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

(AP) — Ten days after a Malaysian jetliner disappeared, Thailand's military said Tuesday it saw radar blips that might have been from the missing plane but didn't report it "because we did not pay attention to it." Search crews from 26 countries, including Thailand, are looking for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which vanished early March 8 with 239 people aboard en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Frustration is growing among relatives of those on the plane at the lack of progress in the search. Aircraft and ships are scouring two giant arcs of territory amounting to the size of Australia — half of it in the remote seas of the southern Indian Ocean.

Cmdr. William Marks, a spokesman for the U.S. 7th Fleet, said finding the plane was like trying to locate a few people somewhere between New York and California.

Early in the search, Malaysian officials said they suspected the plane back-tracked toward the Strait of Malacca, just west of Malaysia. But it took a week for them to confirm Malaysian military radar data suggesting that route.

Thai military officials said Tuesday their own radar



A woman reads messages for passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane, at a shopping mall in Petaling Jaya, near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

Associated Press

showed an unidentified plane, possibly Flight 370, flying toward the strait beginning minutes after the Malaysian jet's transponder signal was lost.

Air force spokesman Air Vice Marshal Montol Suchookorn said the Thai military doesn't know whether the plane it detected was Flight 370. Thailand's failure to quickly share possible information about the plane may not substantially change what Malaysian officials now know, but it raises questions about the degree to which some countries are sharing their defense data.

Flight 370 took off from Kuala Lumpur at 12:40 a.m.

March 8 and its transponder, which allows air traffic controllers to identify and track it, ceased communicating at 1:20 a.m.

Montol said that at 1:28 a.m., Thai military radar "was able to detect a signal, which was not a normal signal, of a plane flying in the direction opposite from the MH370 plane," back toward Kuala Lumpur. The plane later turned right, toward Butterworth, a Malaysian city along the Strait of Malacca. The radar signal was infrequent and did not include data such as the flight number. When asked why it took so long to release the information, Montol said, "Because

we did not pay any attention to it. The Royal Thai Air Force only looks after any threats against our country." He said the plane never entered Thai airspace and that Malaysia's initial request for information in the early days of the search was not specific.

"When they asked again and there was new information and assumptions from (Malaysian) Prime Minister Najib Razak, we took a look at our information again," Montol said. "It didn't take long for us to figure out, although it did take some experts to find out about it."

The search area for the plane initially focused on

the South China Sea. Pings that a satellite detected from the plane hours after its communications went down eventually led authorities to concentrate instead on two vast arcs — one into Central Asia and the other into the Indian Ocean.

Malaysia said over the weekend the loss of communications and change in the aircraft's course were deliberate, whether it was the pilots or others aboard who were responsible. Malaysian police are considering the possibility of hijacking, sabotage, terrorism or issues related to the mental health of the pilots or anyone else on board, but have yet to say what they have uncovered. Investigators had pointed to a sequence of events in which two communications systems were disabled in succession — one of them before a voice from the cockpit gave an all-clear message to ground controllers — as evidence of a deliberate attempt to fly the plane off-course in a hard-to-detect way. On Monday, they backtracked on the timing of the first switch-off, saying it was possible that both were cut around the same time, leading to new speculation that some kind of sudden mechanical or electrical failure might explain the flight going off-course. □

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LOCAL Aruba TODAY



Create your own salad' is Café the Plaza's latest menu option

A great new, healthy menu option is available at Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace.

Chef Andy of the popular restaurant downtown has come up with a 'choose-it-yourself' salad idea that is catching on big-time. Salad lovers will go wild, we predict. What's the deal? Well, guests receive a plate of mixed

lettuces. To that they add their choice of main ingredients which vary from mozzarella to chicken, from crab or tuna, from beef to shrimps or rare tuna and add to this a dressing and three toppings of their choice. The toppings can be tomatoes, onions, cucumber, olives, capers, Parmesan, a boiled egg,

bell peppers, bacon, croutons or relishes. Salad dressing choices are Caesar, balsamic, basil-pesto or mustard.

“Reactions to the new salad are very enthusiastic,” tells supervisor Moniek, who introduced the salad last week. She adds that regular guests who were disappointed that their favorite crab or tuna salad was not on the

new menu anymore, now have a chance to order them via the new ‘Create your own Salad’ option. Chef Andy has not been idle, by the way: his new daily specials and soups are also getting rave reviews. Café the Plaza is open from 8 am until 1 am, so you will have time enough to splurge on a salad. □

Loyal visitors honored at the Marriott Surf Club



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club as Distinguished Visitors.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for

10 to 19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Dan and Mrs. Kathy Mazzaferro from Swampscott Mass., Mr. Les Dole and Mrs. Janice Butterfield from Methuen MA., and Mr. Andy and Mrs. Janet Pace from Pearland Texas. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of

the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt and Mr. John v/d Linden representing the Marriott Surf Club. □



Loyal visitors honored at the Playa Linda Beach Resort



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Playa Linda Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years.



The honorees were Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Arlene Laterra, Mr. Ron and Mrs. JoAnn Grana and Mr. Howard and Mrs. Barbara Messing. The honorees are loyal members of the Playa Lin-



da Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Playa Linda is like being



home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Ludmila Geerman representing the Playa Linda Beach Resort. □

Loyal visitors honored at the Paradise Beach Villas

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple, and a very nice lady whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach

Villas as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more

consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Ruth Konefal from Rock hill NY, and Mrs. Lucrezia Schettino from Centereach NY. The honorees are loyal members

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of the Paradise Beach Villas and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, shopping and being on Aruba and staying at the Paradise is like being

home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Milca Erasmus and Mr. Ed Loon representing the Paradise Beach Villas. □

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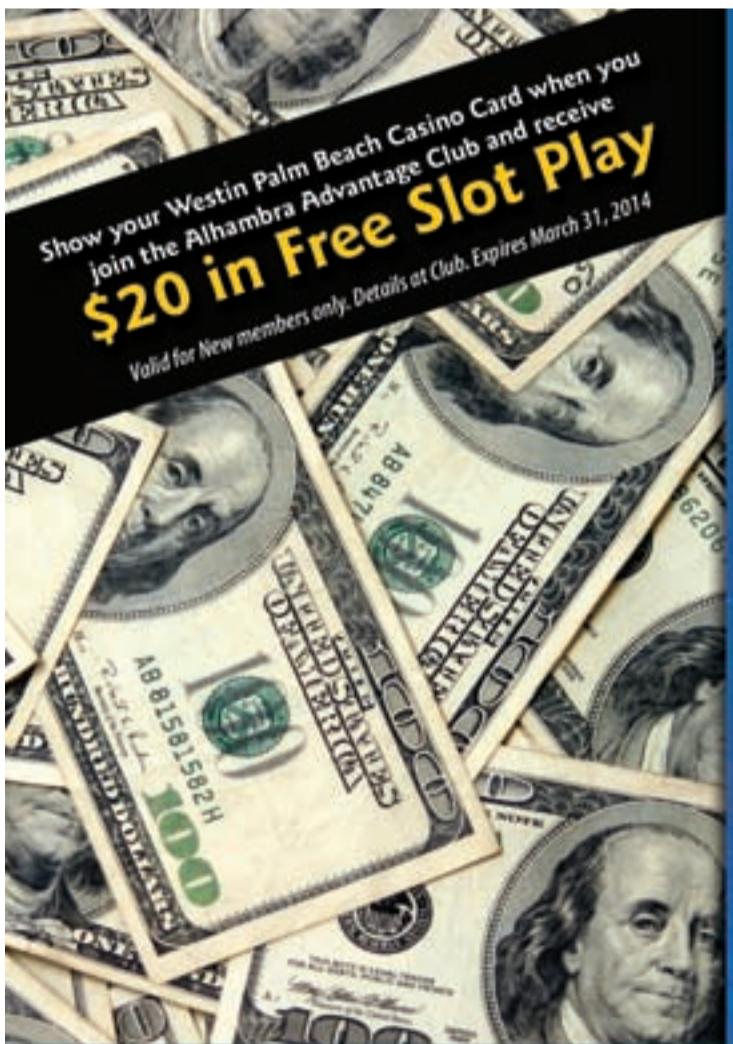
ing and much more. Our desks are located at Casa del Mar (pool deck), Westin Hotel lower lobby, Westin activity center (pool deck), Playa Linda resort next to the juice bar, Holiday Inn Desk and at the Concierge



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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

Phil Jackson returns to Knicks as team president

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Phil Jackson has returned to the New York Knicks as their team president.

The Knicks announced Jackson's hiring on Tuesday at a news conference in the lobby of Madison Square Garden, where a giant sign reading "Welcome Home Phil" was overhead and shirts with the No. 18 Jackson wore as a player lined the racks in the merchandise store. Jackson signed a five-year contract that will reportedly pay him at least \$12 million annually.

"This is the best place to play basketball," Jackson said.

Jackson was a member of the Knicks' NBA-winning teams in 1970 and 1973, but they haven't won a title since. Jackson went on to become the league's most successful coach, winning 11 championships with the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers.

This will be his first time as an executive and the Knicks say he will be in charge of all basketball decisions. MSG chairman James Dolan said he "willingly and gratefully" was step-



Phil Jackson smiles as he is introduced as the new president of the New York Knicks, Tuesday, March 18, 2014 in New York. **Associated Press**

ping back to give Jackson the power to make the changes the franchise needs.

Steve Mills will remain as general manager. It's the second front-office reorganization in six months for the Knicks, who surprisingly fired GM Glen Grunwald days before the start of training camp after he assembled most of the roster that won 54 games last season. Mills replaced him even though he had

no previous experience running the basketball side.

Jackson said he had "no doubt" that Carmelo Anthony could be the centerpiece of the franchise going forward as the All-Star forward prepares to become a free agent this summer.

Jackson will have to decide the future of coach Mike Woodson, who was 72-34 with the Knicks before this season but only 27-

40 heading into Wednesday's game against Indiana. The Knicks probably would have loved it if Jackson were willing to do the job himself — Dolan said the discussion started there. But Jackson made it clear since his last stint with the Lakers ended in 2011 that he had no interest in coaching.

Instead he will try to show he can handle the transition to the front office, which won't be an easy

one given the obstacles the Knicks face with their salary cap. Amare Stoudemire, Tyson Chandler and Andrea Bargnani will all be in the final year of expensive contracts, giving the Knicks little hope of making quick changes next season.

Jackson said he wouldn't insist on the triangle offense his teams ran, but made it clear that he believes in the system's offensive principles.

Jackson said he didn't know how much of the day-to-day work he would handle. Alluding to what he estimated were five knee and hip surgeries since he last coached, Jackson said he was "not easily able to move around" on commercial airlines or in gymnasiums. But he realized he wanted to get back into the game after having discussions last year with the group that tried to buy the Sacramento Kings and move them to Seattle. That fell through, but it wasn't long until he had the opportunity with the Knicks.

"Now to come back to where I've started in basketball, it's a great feeling," Jackson said. □

DNA secrets helping athletes improve performance

STEVE DOUGLAS
AP Sports Writer

MANCHESTER, England

(AP) — British runner Jenny Meadows is using a revolutionary DNA test designed to prevent injury and improve her performance ahead of the Commonwealth Games — and a trio of leading European football teams are about to follow her lead.

The test is a brainchild of London-based company DNAFit, which obtains genetic profiles — using a simple mouth swab — to identify genes that make

athletes prone to certain injuries. It can also ensure they can tailor a program of training and nutrition to fit their DNA.

Meadows, a world indoor silver medalist in the 800 meters in 2010, became the first athlete to publicly reveal the secrets of her DNA on Monday.

"I only wish I'd had this information years ago," said Meadows, who has discovered she has the gene that makes her prone to the kind of tendon injuries that forced her to miss the London Olympics in 2012.

"To get to the top as an athlete, it takes a combination of hard work, luck and timing. But if I'd have known what my genetic strengths and weaknesses I could have trained more effectively."

Dr. Keith Grimaldi, DNAFit's chief scientific officer, told The Associated Press in a phone interview that two Premier League teams and another leading club in Europe have also commissioned genetic profiles of their players. He said they can't be named for confidentiality reasons. □



This is a Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009 file photo of Britain's Jenny Meadows as she celebrates after winning the bronze medal in the final of the Women's 800m during the World Athletics Championships in Berlin. **Associated Press**

NBA Capsules

Pacers hand 76ers 21st straight loss, 99-90

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Lance Stephenson scored 25 points as the Indiana Pacers came back from an early deficit to beat Philadelphia 99-90 on Monday, handing the 76ers their franchise-record 21st straight loss.

Paul George had 24 points for the Pacers, who staked the Sixers to a 15-6 lead before taking the lead and pulling away. George Hill scored 11 points, Ian Mahinmi had 10 and David West grabbed 12 rebounds.

Thaddeus Young had 23 points to lead the Sixers, who tied the Detroit Pistons for the sixth-longest losing streak in NBA history. The Pistons lost 21 straight bridging the 1979-80 and 1980-81 seasons.

The Cleveland Cavaliers set the NBA record for consecutive losses with 26, in the 2010-11 season.

The Sixers haven't won since Jan. 29 at Boston. Evan Turner, now with the Pacers, hit the winning shot in that 95-94 win by Philadelphia. Turner, traded to Indiana with Lavoy Allen on Feb. 20 for Danny Granger and a draft pick, had four points and seven rebounds against his former team Monday.

HAWKS 97, BOBCATS 83
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Paul Millsap scored 28 points as the Atlanta Hawks ended the Charlotte Bobcats' eight-game home winning streak.

It was Atlanta's 11th straight win over Charlotte. The Hawks have won four straight, pulling within 1 1/2 games of the Bobcats for the seventh spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Kemba Walker led the Bobcats with 20 points.

Al Jefferson, who was selected the Eastern Conference Player of the Week on Monday, had 16 points and 12 rebounds for his 30th double-double of the season but was just 6 of 15 from the field.

NETS 108, SUNS 95

NEW YORK (AP) — Deron

Williams scored 28 points and even dunked for the first time this season, leading the Brooklyn Nets past the Phoenix Suns and extending their home winning streak to nine.

Williams shot 11 of 13 from the field and looks all the way back after ankle problems wrecked his first half of the season. He was two points off his season high and rose above the rim to throw down a dunk that finished off a fourth-quarter fast break started by Andrei Kirilenko's steal.

Joe Johnson added 19 points for the Nets, on their longest home winning streak since winning nine straight from March 15-April 6, 2006. Markieff Morris scored 18 points and Gerald Green 17 for the Suns, who were seeking a perfect three-game trip against Atlantic Division teams after winning at Boston and Toronto.

THUNDER 97, BULLS 85
CHICAGO (AP) — Kevin Durant finished with 35 points and 12 rebounds as the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Chicago Bulls.

Russell Westbrook added 17 points after sitting out the previous day to rest his surgically repaired knee, and the Thunder rebounded from their most lopsided loss of the season. They went on a 13-point run after the Bulls scored eight straight early in the fourth to cut the lead to one and pulled this one out after falling by 23 at home to Dallas on Sunday.

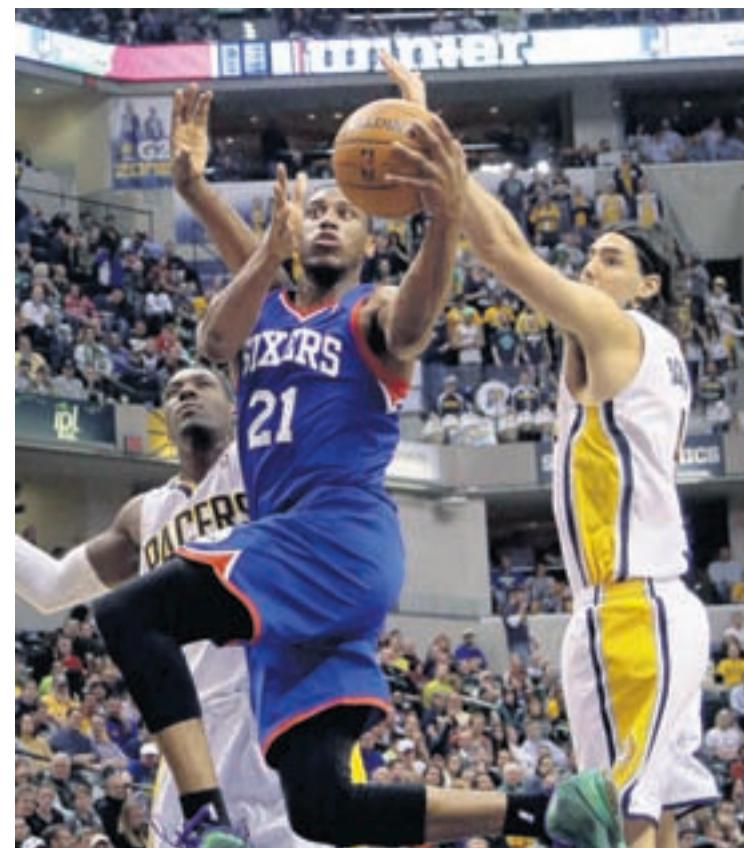
Durant ran his streak of games with 25 or more points to 32, the longest in the NBA since Michael Jordan did it in 40 in a row during the 1986-87 season. He also chipped in with five assists.

Chicago's Joakim Noah, who's been hearing "MVP!" chants lately, shot 2 of 8 but finished with nine points, 12 rebounds and nine assists.

ROCKETS 124, JAZZ 86

HOUSTON (AP) — Terrence Jones scored 30 points as the Houston Rockets ended a three-game skid with their

most lopsided victory of the season. Dwight Howard was out with an ankle strain, leaving the Rockets without him for the first time this season. But they still had no problem handling the Utah Jazz, who have lost five in a row and have one of the worst records in the Western Conference. Houston led 92-69 entering the fourth, and the big advantage allowed an overworked James Harden, who had played more than 43 minutes in three of the previous four games, to rest a bit as he watched the fourth quarter from the bench. Harden finished with 15 points. □



Philadelphia 76ers forward Thaddeus Young, center, drives between Indiana Pacers defenders Ian Mahinmi, left, and Luis Scola, of Argentina, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Monday, March 17, 2014.

Associated Press

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Minnesota Wild goalie Darcy Kuemper dives back to make a save as Boston Bruins right wing Jarome Iginla (12) chases the puck during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, March 17, 2014, in Boston. At right is Boston Bruins center David Krejci. Associated Press

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Bruins beat Wild; extend winning streak to 9

BOSTON (AP) — Jarome Iginla scored two goals, Tuukka Rask stopped 33 shots as the Eastern Conference-leading Boston Bruins extended their winning streak to nine games with a 4-1 win over the Minnesota Wild on Monday. The Bruins increased their conference lead to five points over idle second-place Pittsburgh by posting their longest winning streak since a 10-game run in November 2011. Loui Eriksson and Reilly Smith also scored for Boston, which beat the Wild at home for the first time after losing the first six meetings. The Bruins are 3-10 overall against the Wild, who began play in the 2000-01 season.

Jason Pominville had the only goal for Minnesota, which lost for the fifth time in six games. Darcy Kuemper made 25 saves.

BLUES 3, JETS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — David Backes scored twice, and Ryan Miller made 16 saves in another win as St. Louis beat Winnipeg.

The Blues are 7-0-1 since Miller was acquired by trade from Buffalo. St. Louis has won three straight and eight of nine.

Western Conference-leading St. Louis has an NHL-best 101 points. It is the sixth time in franchise history that the Blues have reached 100 points.

Backes has 23 goals this season. Brendan Morrow added a goal, and Jay Bouwmeester had two assists in the Blues' win.

Eric O'Dell had the lone goal for Winnipeg, and Al Montoya made 23 saves.

LIGHTNING 4, CANUCKS 3

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Steven Stamkos and Ondrej Palat both had a goal and an assist to lead Tampa Bay past Vancouver.

Valtteri Filppula and Tom Pyatt also scored for the Lightning, who moved into a second-place tie with Montreal — with one game at hand — in the Atlantic Division. Ben Bishop extended his single-season team record with his 32nd win.

Alexandre Burrows scored two goals, and Jannik Hansen added a short-handed tally for the Canucks.

After Pyatt scored midway through the third period, the Canucks got within one on goals by Burrows at 11:44 and Hansen at 15:16.

COYOTES 4, KINGS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Keith Yandle scored the tying goal midway through the third period and Jeff Halpern netted the winner with 3:05 left, leading Phoenix over Los Angeles.

Rob Klinkhammer and Mikkel Boedker scored 63 seconds apart in the first period for the Coyotes, who handed the Kings their third straight loss and took over sole possession of eighth place in the Western Conference. Mike Smith made 36 saves.

Marian Gaborik, defenseman Alec Martinez and rookie Tanner Pearson scored for the Kings, who were without captain Dustin Brown for a second straight game because of a lower body injury. Jonathan Quick stopped 23 shots for Los Angeles, which fell to 21-1 when leading after two periods.

The Kings outshot Phoenix 15-2 in the second period, turning a 2-1 deficit into a 3-2 lead.

In other NHL games it was Phoenix 4, LA Kings 3; Tampa Bay 4, Vancouver 3; St. Louis 3, Winnipeg 1, and Boston 4, Minnesota 1. □



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Recharged Federer is off to best start in 2

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, Calif.

California (AP) — Roger Federer could have been upset about losing a close final in one of the biggest events outside the Grand Slam tournaments.

But the blow of a three-set loss to Novak Djokovic in the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday was softened by knowing how far he had come since injuring his back a year ago at Indian Wells.

Last spring, Federer took a seven-week break. After Wimbledon, he re-injured his back and found himself questioning everything, leading to an uneven year for someone who once ruled this sport.

"I had some doubts at certain times," he said. "But, overall, I knew that it can't be that I will feel this way forever, so it was just important to stay patient and

wait. That's the most difficult thing to do. I haven't had it very often in my career. That's why it was somewhat new for me."

The chatter grew that Federer's game had fallen. Some suggested he consider retirement. He heard the noise but didn't listen.

"A few weeks ago, months ago, a few people said I couldn't play tennis anymore," he said. "But at the same time, that fire, wanting to win, is important, and right now I have that. I think have a really good balance right now."

Despite being denied a record fifth title at Indian Wells, Federer is 19-3 this year, his best start since opening the season with a 23-2 mark two years ago. He's 4-2 against top 10 opponents, the most wins of any player this year.

He moved up three spots to No. 5 in Monday's rankings. That's the closest he's

been to the top four since last June, when he was third.

Federer won his first title of the year two weeks ago in Dubai, beating Djokovic in a three-set semifinal. He was a finalist in Brisbane and lost in the semifinals at the Australian Open.

"I'm just happy I'm playing consistent tennis and I'm going deep in tournaments and I'm giving myself chances to win," he said. "I'm playing really good tennis. I'm moving well. Serving well, consistently well. So many things are working."

Federer heads to Miami this week for the Sony Open, which he skipped last year because of his back.

"I'm just surprised that I'm able to keep it up week for week now," he said. "I expected myself to have a breakthrough tournament, but then maybe a couple of early exits. Who knows,



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, celebrates his win against Alexander Dolgopolov, of Ukraine, during their semifinal match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Saturday, March 15, 2014, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

maybe that's all upon me, I don't know. But I got very, very close, so it's encouraging for Miami and for the rest of the season."

Federer's rivals have noticed a recharged Roger. "He has more depth on his shots, especially from the

backhand side. He's opening with his backhand shot down the line," Djokovic said. "He gives himself an opportunity to finish with the forehand. He serves well. He just played better than he did in the last 13, 14 months." □



Overall leader Alberto Contador sprays sparkling wine as he celebrates on the podium after completing the sixth stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico cycling race, from Bucchianico to Porto Sant'Elpidio, Italy, Monday, March 17, 2014.

Associated Press

SAN BENEDETTO DEL TRONTO, Italy (AP) — Alberto

Contador won the week-long Tirreno-Adriatico cy-

Alberto Contador sends signal with Tirreno overall victory

cling race Tuesday to signal a return to form after going all of last year without a victory in multi-stage races.

The five-time Grand Tour winner finished 2 minutes, 5 seconds ahead of Tour de France runner-up Nairo Quintana in the overall standings. Contador's Tinkoff-Saxo teammate Roman Kreuziger placed third, 2:14 behind.

Adriano Malori, an Italian with Movistar, won the concluding nine-kilometer (5.7-mile) time trial in 10:13. Contador won mountain stages on Saturday and Sunday in dominating fashion.

His last major win was the 2012 Spanish Vuelta.

"This race meant a lot to me," said Contador, who opened the season by finishing second overall to Michał Kwiatkowski in the Tour of Algarve last month.

Contador won the Tour de France in 2007 and 2009, and then had his 2010 title stripped for doping.

He's planning to challenge defending champion Chris Froome in this year's Tour.

"Right now I'm thinking about next week and the Tour of Catalonia," Contador said. "Then I'll think about the Tour and Vuelta."

Swiss cyclist Fabian Cancellara finished second in the stage, six seconds behind Malori, and Olympic

champion Bradley Wiggins was third, 11 seconds back. Contador finished 29 seconds behind Malori in the stage.

"I knew I could put down a great time," said the 26-year-old Malori, who also won a time trial in the Tour de San Luis in Argentina in January. "This year has started really well for me. I've made a real jump in quality."

Many riders used the race as a warmup for Sunday's Milan-San Remo classic. After struggling in Italy, 2011 Tour de France champion Cadel Evans withdrew before the final stage to return home and resume training for the Giro d'Italia. □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

A famous French connoisseur of good food and drink, Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin in 1825 said, "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are". In the 1920s and 30s, the nutritionist Victor Lindlahr, who believed that food controls health, developed the Catabolic Diet. Victor said, "Ninety per cent of the diseases known to man are caused by cheap foodstuffs. You are what you eat." However, most people attribute the phrase "You are what you eat" to Adelle Davis, a leading spokesperson for the organic food movement.

Adelle Davis, was an North American author and a pioneer of nutrition during the mid-20th century. She advocated whole unprocessed foods, criticized food additives, and claimed that dietary supplements and other nutrients play a dominant role in maintaining health, preventing disease, and restoring health after the onset of disease.

Interestingly, our Aruban diet 50 years ago was made up of whole unprocessed foods that did not contain food additives.

Unfortunately, modern families worldwide today have been seduced by the convenience and apparent low

cost of junk food.

Another nutritional hero of mine, Dr. Weston A. Price, a Cleveland dentist, searching for the causes of dental decay and physical degeneration he observed daily in his dental practice, turned from test tubes and microscopes to study "people with fine teeth". In the 1930's he traveled worldwide. Dr. Price found that beautiful, straight teeth, freedom from decay, athletic bodies, and resistance to disease, and fine characters were typical of people still eating their traditional diets. Dr Price took thousands of pictures showing children, smiling to show their healthy teeth.

When he examined children of parents who had adopted the "modern" diets of devitalized processed foods, he found a disturbing contrast. Children whose parents ate processed foods had more narrow faces, crowded teeth and dental arches, both which were more susceptible to dental decay, and Dr Price found these children to have a reduced immunity to disease.

The impact of your food choices not only affects your physical body, but chemical imbalances can affect the brain, causing depression, anxiety, and other problems. When wrong food, food additives, chemicals and lifestyle put a strain on organs, the spirit can also be affected. How can you have passion when you are exhausted or sick?

The North American Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that they are seeing people

in the States with diabetes living longer, yet as our modern diets have changed, diabetes has grown to an epidemic. Diabetes and pre-diabetes (insulin resistance) is a costly medical problem. People diagnosed with diabetes have medical expenditures that are about 2.3 times higher than medical expenses for people without diabetes.

Diabetes is preventable when doctors are trained how to identify insulin resistance before it becomes Type II diabetes and patients are educated and willing to change.

Food, herb, drug, and chemical intolerance can also have profound impact on your health. Your immune system is a network of organs, glands and tissues that protect your body from foreign substances, such as bacteria, viruses and cancer risk.

Besides lowering your immune system, food and chemical intolerance makes weight loss impossible.

We always begin our relationship with a patient by recommending a metabolic or blood type diet and supplements to offset modern, devitalized foods.

When patients are ready to do more to improve their health, we offer a scientifically tested, comprehensive food and chemical sensitivity test using a simple blood test or "AL-CAT" test. With results from this specialized test, patients eliminate not only chemicals and "unhealthy" foods, but some seemingly "healthy" foods that show "hidden" reactions which hold people

back from becoming healthy as possible. We've seen people successfully overcome a wide variety of conditions such as digestive disorders, migraines, obesity, chronic fatigue, skin disorders and arthritis.

The wrong food choices also have an impact on what should be a natural process, growing older. Traditional Chinese Medicine doctors are looking at their maturing patients to see if they are aging "Gracefully". Gracefully aging individuals still possess an inquisitive mind and are full of flexible energy.

Even after working all day, my partner, Phyllis and I look forward to an afternoon swimming or dancing the salsa in the evening.

With the wrong food choices, many people are experiencing accelerated aging that can be identified through medical tests. Older patients often complain of exhaustion, stiffness, and dizziness. Looking at their arms and legs I can see the signs of muscle loss that will quickly develop into bone loss.

Aging individuals, who have not yet developed advanced degenerative diseases, can quickly recover their metabolic balance, slowing down and even reversing their aging rate.

Get The Point! Recent studies show that diabetes and its consequences have changed from a disease of our grandparents and parents to young adults and children. Luckily, studies also show that lifestyle changes can prevent or delay the onset of diabetes type II. For people with

pre-diabetes, starting with what you eat and losing as little as 5%-7% body weight including a minimum of 3 hours of physical activity per week can reduce the rate of onset of type 2 diabetes by 58%. We see these positive clinical results in clinic nearly every day. For individual testing and personal education on how to eat for your best health, call us.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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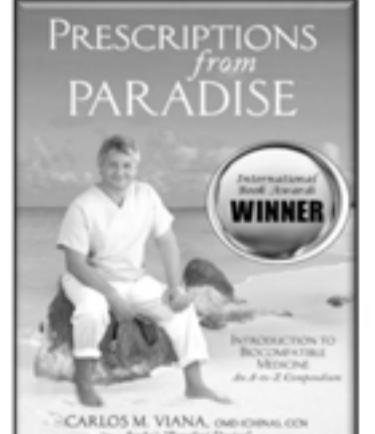
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U.S. lags as commercial drones take off around globe

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A small, four-rotor drone hovered over Washington Nationals baseball players for a few days during spring training in Florida last month, taking publicity photos impossible for a human photographer to capture. But no one got the Federal Aviation Administration's permission first.

"No, we didn't get it cleared, but we don't get our pop flies cleared either and those go higher than this thing did," a team official said when contacted by The Associated Press. The drone flights ceased the next day. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and asked not to be named.

The agency bars commercial use of drones no matter how seemingly benign. The lone exception is an oil company that has been granted permission to fly drones over the Arctic Ocean, and it took an act of Congress to win that concession.

FAA officials say rules to address the special safety challenges associated with unmanned aircraft need to be in place before they can share the sky with manned aircraft. The agency has worked on those regulations for the past decade and is still months and possibly years away from issuing final rules for small drones, which are defined as those weighing less than 55 pounds. Rules for larger drones are even further off.

But tempting technology and an eager marketplace are outrunning the aviation agency's best intentions. Photographers, real estate agents, moviemakers and others are hurrying to

embrace the technology. Drones have been used to photograph the two apartment buildings that collapsed in New York City this past week and a car crash in Connecticut. The AP, in fact, is one of several news organizations studying the possible use of drones. Unless FAA officials receive a complaint or chance upon a news story that mentions drone flights, they have little ability to find out about violations. The ban was further undercut this month when a federal judge dismissed the only fine the FAA has imposed on a commercial drone operator. The judge said the agency can't enforce regulations that don't exist. The FAA, which contends it controls access to the national air space, has appealed.

The use of commercial drones, most of them small, is starting to spread to countries where authorities have decided the aircraft presents little threat if operators follow a few safety rules.

The drone industry and some members of Congress are worried the United States will be one of the last countries, rather than one of the first, to gain the economic benefits of the technology.

"We don't have the luxury of waiting another 20 years," said Paul McDuffee, vice president of drone-maker Insitu of Bingen, Washington, a subsidiary of Boeing. "This industry is exploding. It's getting to the point where it may end up happening with or without the FAA's blessing."

In Japan, the Yamaha Motor Company's RMAX helicopter drones have been spraying crops for 20 years. The radio-controlled drones



This March 12, 2014 file photo shows a drone landing after flying over the scene of an explosion that leveled two apartment buildings in East Harlem in New York. Brian Wilson, the owner, says he uses the aerial drone to document buildings, weddings and news events.

Associated Press

weighing 140 pounds (63.5 kilograms) are cheaper than hiring a plane and are able to more precisely apply fertilizers and pesticides. They fly closer to the ground and their backwash enables the spray to reach the underside of leaves. The helicopters went into use five years ago in South Korea and last year in Australia.

Television networks use drones to cover cricket matches in Australia. Zookal, a Sydney company that rents textbooks to college students, plans to begin delivering books via drones later this year. The United Arab Emirates has a project underway to see whether government documents like driver's licenses, identity cards and permits can be delivered using small drones.

In the United Kingdom, energy companies use drones to check the undersides of oil platforms for corrosion and repairs, and real estate agents use them to shoot videos of pricey properties. In a publicity stunt last June, a Domino's Pizza franchise in the U.K. posted a YouTube video of a "DomiCopter" drone flying over fields, trees and homes to deliver two pizzas.

But when Lakemaid Beer tried to use a drone to deliver six-packs to ice fishermen on a frozen lake in Minnesota, the FAA grounded the brewskis.

Andreas Raptopoulos, CEO of Matternet in Menlo Park, California, predicts that in the near term, there will be more extensive use of drones in impoverished countries than in wealthier nations such as the U.S.

He sees a market for drones to deliver medicines and other critical, small packaged goods to the 1 billion people around the globe who don't have year-round access to roads.

Later this year, Matternet plans to start selling to government and aid organizations a package that includes a drone and two landing pads. On the return trip, the drones can carry blood samples bound for labs and other packages.

Germany's express delivery company Deutsche Post DHL is testing a "Paketkopter" drone that could be used to deliver small, urgently needed goods in hard-to-reach places.

Facebook is in talks to buy Titan Aerospace, a maker of solar-powered drone-like satellites, to step up its efforts to provide Internet access to remote parts of the world.

There is also a strong business case for urban drones that can replace truck deliveries of single packages.

"If you look at the economic footprint and CO2 emissions," Raptopoulos said, the drone "beats the truck hands down." □



Demonstrator Zev Nicholson, of Boston, left, holds a placard and chants during a protest outside a McDonald's fast food restaurant, Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in Boston, held to call attention to the denial of overtime pay and other violations protesters say deprive workers of the money they're owed.

Associated Press

U.S. fast-food protests shift focus to 'wage theft'

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Organizers of fast-food protests being held across America for higher pay on Tuesday shifted their attention to another issue: "wage theft."

Protesters rallied outside McDonald's restaurants in cities including Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami to call attention to the denial of overtime pay and other violations they say deprive workers of the money they're owed.

McDonald's Corp. said in a statement that its restaurants remain open "today — and every day — thanks to the teams of dedicated employees serving our customers."

The actions are part of an ongoing campaign by union organizers to build public support for pay of \$15 an hour. The Service Employees International Union has been providing financial and organizational backing for the push, which began in late 2012. Since then, a series of protests around the country has captured national media attention and served as a backdrop for President Obama's call to raise the federal minimum wage.

On Tuesday, organizers said rallies were planned for about 30 cities, but the size of the turnout wasn't

clear. In New York, roughly 50 protesters streamed into a McDonald's across the street from the Empire State Building, surprising customers. They chanted for a few minutes before being kicked out by police.

Once back outside, members of the group took turns speaking before a large gathering of TV cameras and other media. New York City public advocate Letitia James voiced her support while standing next to a protester dressed as Ronald McDonald in handcuffs.

"It's hard enough for fast-food workers to survive in this economy," James said. She is planning to introduce legislation to establish a hotline to report "wage theft." It was a far smaller showing than other recent protests in New York City and it wasn't clear how many participants were fast-food workers, rather than campaign organizers, supporters or members of the public relations firm that has been coordinating media efforts. Still, the latest rallies reflect the push by labor groups to keep continued pressure on the issue of worker pay.

In Los Angeles, a crowd of 50 demonstrated at a McDonald's for about a half-hour. The group held a brief press conference

outside before marching inside with banners and signs. In Boston, about 40 people waved signs reading "Stop Stealing Now" and chanted "Every nickel, every dime, we deserve our overtime!"

They entered a mostly empty McDonald's and confronted a manager, who explained that he didn't have the authority to respond to their claims.

In a statement, the National Restaurant Association called the demonstrations "orchestrated union PR events where the vast majority of participants are activists and paid demonstrators."

The demonstrations are a follow-up to lawsuits filed last week in three states on behalf of workers, who said they had their wages stolen by McDonald's and its franchisees. Workers said money was deducted from their paychecks for their uniforms and that they were sometimes made to wait around before they could clock in, according to the lawsuits.

The workers were referred to attorneys by the protest organizers.

McDonald's, which has more than 14,000 U.S. locations, has said it will investigate the allegations and take any necessary action. □

Monitor: Big U.S. banks satisfy mortgage settlement

WASHINGTON (AP) — The four biggest U.S. banks slashed billions of dollars from mortgages and other debts, enough to satisfy their obligations under a national mortgage settlement that stemmed from so-called robo-signing.

A report on Tuesday from the monitor overseeing the settlement says Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Citigroup Inc., and Wells Fargo & Co. have provided some \$50 billion in relief to more than 600,000 borrowers.

The settlement, reached in February 2012, was prompted by disclosures that some mortgage-servicing companies had processed foreclosures without verifying documents. The problem became especially severe after housing prices crashed around the time of the 2008 financial crisis and the number of foreclosures soared. Because of the settlement, banks cut the size of mortgage balances, modified loans and allowed homeowners to sell their house for less than they owed. It also let some borrowers refinance even though they wouldn't usually qualify because they owed too much. The settlement with the federal government and 49 states "resulted in an unprecedented amount of consumer relief," monitor Joseph Smith wrote. He said the deal gave banks an incentive to provide relief early, so borrowers who were in trouble got help within 18 months of the effective date of the settlement.

The \$50 billion in relief counts as \$20 billion under the scoring system of the settlement. Lenders got a bonus of 25 percent for mortgages reduced before Feb. 28, 2013, and penalties if they missed deadline. Other variables also increased or decreased the amount they were credited with.

According to the report, Bank of America was credited with \$9.61 billion in relief, covering 317,028 loans; Wells Fargo provided \$4.57 billion on 122,719 loans; Chase provided \$4.46 billion on 125,553 loans, and Citi provided \$1.79 billion, covering 58,822 loans.

Chase said it finished its loan changes two years early and forgave an average of \$121,000 in principal on first mortgages.

Wells Fargo said the loans it was credited with changing were "only a small percentage of what we have done to assist customers over the past several years. We remain committed to helping customers who face payment challenges find options wherever possible." Smith said he is continuing to monitor some mortgage-servicing practices under separate agreements those companies have with some states. He said he will file another report in the spring. □



Wal-Mart takes aim at \$2B used video game market

KEN SWEET

MAE ANDERSON

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart plans to start buying used video games from shoppers at stores in a move that goes after the bread-and-butter business of GameStop.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. plans to expand its current online trade-in program by allowing customers to trade their used video games at 3,100 Wal-Mart stores in exchange for credit toward the purchase of other items.

The world's largest retailer is taking aim at the \$2 billion used video-game market. It's a business that's dominated by GameStop Corp., the world's biggest dedicated seller of video games with the largest and most-established video game trade-in program.

Retailers from Amazon to Best Buy also offer used video game trade-in programs. But Wal-Mart's new program is the biggest threat to GameStop, which for the last three years has drawn roughly half of its profits from buying and selling used video games.

Starting next week, Wal-Mart customers can trade in video games for credit that can be used in both Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores. The value for each trade-in will vary by the title, console and age of the game, ranging from just a few dollars for older games to \$35 or more for newer ones.

In an apparent fight on GameStop's program, Wal-Mart made a point on Tuesday of saying that the credit it will offer shoppers can be used on anything from groceries to a new bike, rather than just other video games.

"When we disrupt markets and compete, our customer wins," said Duncan Mac Naughton, chief merchandising and marketing officer of its US stores. "They'll save money on video games and have the flexibility to spend it however they want."

GameStop did not respond to a query for comment.



In this Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, file photo, Tracey Anderson, 26, re-stocks X-Box sets on opening day of a new Wal-Mart on Georgia Avenue Northwest in Washington.

Associated Press

Investors appeared to think Wal-Mart's move spells trouble for GameStop, sending its shares down 3.7 percent to \$38.30, while Wal-Mart shares rose 14 cents to \$74.82.

But analysts suggest the new program isn't necessarily a death knell for GameStop. After all, other retailers have tried to take business in the used game market with "modest" success, said Baird Equity Research analyst Colin Sebastian, but GameStop has

loyalty among video game customers and a broad inventory of new and used video games.

"History suggests the competition is unlikely to capture meaningful share," he wrote in a client note. The trade-in business is appealing for a retailer: When a consumer buys a new video game for \$60, only a small portion of its sale price goes to the company. But when a consumer turns around and sells that game back to the company

the company can keep all the profits for itself.

But it's also a complex business that requires systems to track and manage used product inventory and pricing and the ability to refurbish products and restock stores appropriately to balance supply and demand. In fact, Wal-Mart tried a video trade-in program from 2009 to 2010 using kiosks in stores, but that was not a success. The company said it has found a better system that will make the process

more efficient.

Still, Sterne Agee analyst Arvind Bhatia said GameStop has advantages that Wal-Mart does not: a large refurbishment facility in Dallas, pricing algorithms and experience developed over a decade.

"It makes sense and feels natural that various retailers that offer new video games would try to offer trade-ins as well," Bhatia said. "However, as many retailers have discovered in the past, buying product from merchants in bulk is quite different than buying one disc at a time from customers."

Another potential challenge in the video game trade-in market is software makers' grudging acceptance of it. Publishers such as Activision, Electronic Arts and Take-Two Interactive have been adding downloadable content and add-ons to their \$60 games to help recover any profits the publishers would have made if the consumer had bought a new game versus a retailer's \$55 used version.

"You cannot have game and marketing budgets this high while also having used and rental games existing," Cliff Bleszinski, the creator of the popular "Gears of War" franchise, said last year. □

Stocks gain after reports on housing, Ukraine

MATT CRAFT

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Encouraging news on the economy gave the stock market a boost on Tuesday.

Stocks also rose on expectations that the conflict between Russia and the West wouldn't escalate further. Russia's President Vladimir Putin is preparing to complete the annexation of the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, but he said Tuesday that he won't take over other areas of Ukraine. The stock market is recovering this week after logging its biggest weekly drop in almost two months. The S&P 500 has gained 1.7 percent

this week after dropping almost 2 percent last week on concerns about slowing growth in China and tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine.

The annexation of Crimea "is a horrible thing for the world in the long term," said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners. "But the market doesn't want unrest." The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 13.42 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,872.25. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 88.97 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,336.19. The Nasdaq composite climbed 53.36 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,333.31. The stock market also got a boost from two

technology companies.

Microsoft jumped after Reuters reported that CEO Satya Nadella plans to use his first big press event March 27 to unveil an iPad version of the company's Office software suite. Analysts regard this as a first step for Nadella in repositioning Microsoft as a company that focuses on mobile devices rather than the shrinking market for personal computers. The company's stock climbed \$1.50, or 3.9 percent, to \$39.55, its highest level since July, 2000.

Hewlett-Packard rose \$1.08, or 3.7 percent, to \$30.56 after analysts at Barclays upgraded their outlook on the hardware company and

raised their price target on the stock to \$38 from \$33. They expect HP to return more cash to shareholders and gain market share in the server business from rivals in coming months.

Stocks opened higher after Putin told the Russian Parliament not to believe those who say that the country will look to take over other areas of Ukraine.

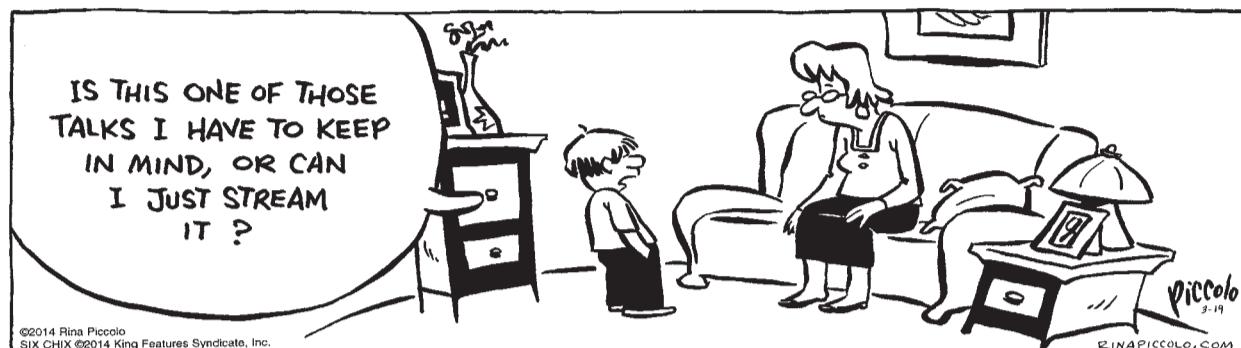
The stock market also got a lift from a report that showed inflation remains tame, despite a big rise in the cost of food.

The consumer price index rose 0.1 percent in February, matching January's increase, the Labor Department said Tuesday. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



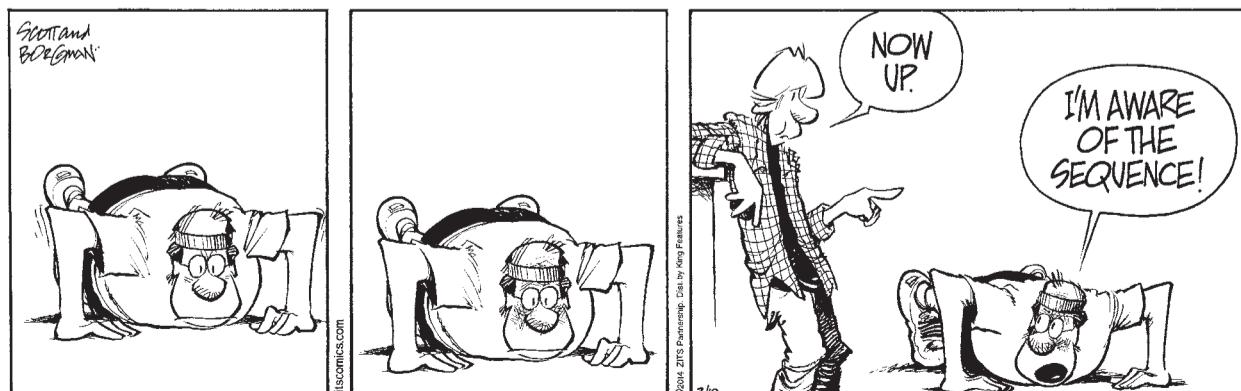
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9	6				2	8
5	8				4	7
7	2				1	6
		4	5	2		
8	4				6	9
5	1				3	4
	7				5	
8		5	1	3		2
6					1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	6	4	1	5	9	3	2	7
5	2	1	7	6	3	9	8	4
7	9	3	2	4	8	5	1	6
6	5	9	4	3	2	8	7	1
1	4	7	9	8	5	6	3	2
2	3	8	6	1	7	4	9	5
3	8	2	5	7	6	1	4	9
9	1	6	3	2	4	7	5	8
4	7	5	8	9	1	2	6	3

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21			22	23					
					24			25						
26	27	28					29							
30			31	32			33		34	35	36			
37		38	39				40	41						
42			43	44			45	46						
51	52	53					54							
55						56					57	58	59	
60					61	62				63				
64					65					66				
67					68					69				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/19/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	P	E	A	S	N	E	A	T	O	P
O	W	E	D	I	T	A	L	Y	D	O	N
C	A	N	S	L	I	P	S	E	V	I	C
A	Y	E	P	I	N	E	O	I	L	E	R
T	H	I	N	K	P	A	S	P	A	S	T
S	A	R	O	N	G	F	O	R	E	T	S
A	M	A	S	B	A	L	E	T	O	E	
R	I	T	E	F	I	L	E	T	F	R	M
A	G	E	F	A	T	E	D	R	E	A	L
O	D	I	O	U	S	C	U	R	T	S	Y
N	I	X			M	I	L	N			
C	R	O	S	S	R	A	C	E	G		
L	E	G	I	T	T	M	A	H	H		
E	A	R	S	R	E	P	E	L	I		
F	R	E	T	E	N	T	R	Y	S		

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3/19/14

3 Fail to include
4 On fire
5 Ideas
6 Tribal pole
7 In the sack
8 Arthur; star of "Maude"
9 Status __; sign of prestige
10 Bill Clinton's state of birth
11 Grab
12 Middleton and Mulgrew
13 Used up
21 Booby prize winner
23 Actor's part
25 More irritated
26 Curved beam overhead
27 Bangkok native
28 Have in hand
29 Robert and his wife Elizabeth
32 Female relative
34 Parcheesi or Monopoly
35 Smooth; level
36 Landlord's pay
38 Sloppiest
40 Fodder towers
43 BBQ rod
45 Aviator Amelia
48 Votes in
50 Reason for teeth cleaning
51 Offends
52 Home made of snow
53 Smile derisively
54 Wife's mate
56 Family member
57 Seep out
58 Small bills
59 Prescriptions, for short
62 Deteriorate

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Evidence spotted for universe's early growth spurt

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. researchers say they have spotted evidence that a split-second after the Big Bang, the newly formed universe ballooned out at a pace so astonishing that it left behind ripples in the fabric of the cosmos.

If confirmed, experts said, the discovery would be a major advance in the understanding of the early universe. Although many scientists already believed that an initial, extremely rapid growth spurt happened, they have long sought the evidence cited in the new study.

Researchers reported Monday that they found it by peering into the faint light that remains from the Big Bang of nearly 14 billion years ago.

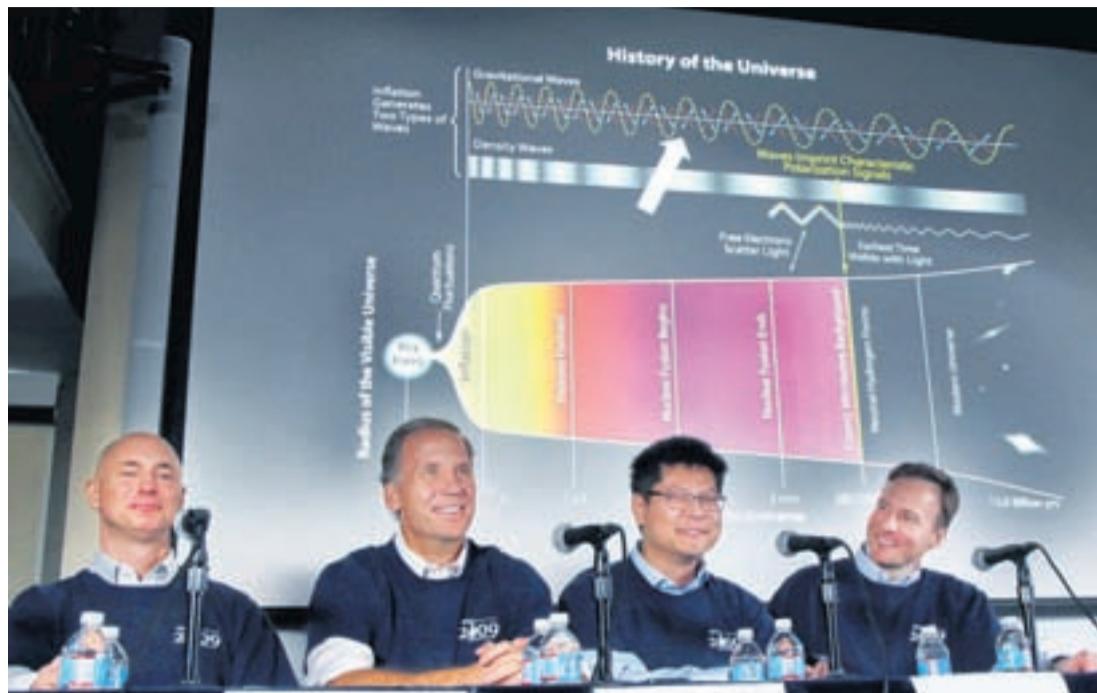
The discovery "gives us a window on the universe at the very beginning," when it was far less than one-trillionth of a second old, said theoretical physicist Lawrence Krauss of Arizona State University, who was not involved in the work.

"It's just amazing," he said. "You can see back to the beginning of time."

Marc Kamionkowski, a theoretical physicist at Johns Hopkins University who didn't participate in the research, used a common baseball analogy, saying the finding is "not just a home run. It's a grand slam."

He and other experts said the results must be confirmed by other observations, a standard caveat in science.

Right after the Big Bang, the universe was a hot soup of particles. It took about 380,000 years to cool enough that the particles could form atoms,



Scientists, from left, Clem Pryke, Jamie Bock, Chao-Lin Kuo and John Kovac smile during a news conference at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., Monday, March 17, 2014, regarding their new findings on the early expansion of the universe.

Associated Press

then stars and galaxies. Billions of years later, planets formed from gas and dust that were orbiting stars. The universe has continued to spread out.

Krauss said he thinks the new results could rank among the greatest discoveries in astrophysics over the last 25 years, such as the Nobel prize-winning discovery that the uni-

verse's expansion is accelerating.

The results were announced by a collaboration that included researchers from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, the University of Minnesota, Stanford University, the California Institute of Technology and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The team plans to submit its results

to a scientific journal this week, said its leader, John Kovac of Harvard.

Astronomers scanned about 2 percent of the sky for three years with a telescope at the South Pole, where the air is exceptionally dry.

They were looking for a specific pattern in light waves within the faint microwave glow left over from the

Big Bang. The pattern has long been considered evidence of rapid growth, known as inflation. Kovac called it "the smoking-gun signature of inflation."

The reported detection suggests that "inflation has sent us a telegram," Kamionkowski said. The researchers say the light-wave pattern was caused by gravitational waves, which are ripples in space and time.

If verified, the new work would be the first detection of such waves from the birth of the universe, which have been called the first tremors of the Big Bang.

Arizona State's Krauss cautioned that the light-wave pattern might not be a sign of inflation, although he stressed that it's "extremely likely" that it is. It's "our best hope" for a direct test of whether the rapid growth spurt happened, he said.

Alan Guth of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a creator of the idea of inflation, said the finding already suggests that some ideas about the rapid expansion of the universe can be ruled out. □

Paris takes drastic measures to fight toxic smog

GREG KELLER

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Paris imposed drastic measures Monday to combat its worst air pollution in years, banning around half of the city's cars and trucks from its streets for a day in an attempt to reduce the toxic smog that's shrouded the City of Light for more than a week. Cars with even-numbered license plates were prohibited from driving in Paris and its suburbs. Around 700 police manned 179 control points



An electronic road sign on the Paris ring road reads "driving with even-numbers forbidden" in Paris, Monday, March 17, 2014.

Associated Press

around the region, handing out tickets to offenders. Taxis and commercial vehicles weren't covered by the ban.

Police had ticketed nearly 4,000 people by midday, and 27 drivers had their cars impounded for refusing to cooperate with officers. France has seen exceptionally warm, dry weather

this month with little wind, which has trapped car pollution and fumes from seasonal farming activity in the air. France's unusually high number of diesel vehicles is also contributing to the smog.

Environment Minister Philippe Martin said lower traffic and favorable weather patterns were

having an impact on pollution Monday, and that the alternate-plates measure would be lifted Tuesday.

It was the first time since 1997 that the measure was taken. All public transport has been free for four days straight to help deal with the pollution — but that too is set to end Tuesday. Paris' anti-pollution efforts trail behind those of some other cities.

Athens has had a similar alternate driving ban in place for many years that has reduced pollution and traffic. In Brazil, Sao Paulo employs a complicated license plate-based system that assigns each car a day of the week when it cannot be driven during rush hours.

Berlin has strict rules on what kind of cars can enter the city, and London makes drivers pay a "congestion charge" to drive in the center of town. □

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'Best of best' of Ansel Adams' photos on display

JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

During the last years of his life, Ansel Adams pored over the tens of thousands of negatives he'd carefully stored since his teens, setting aside 70 he determined would stand as his greatest works of art.

Adams offered to personally print, sign and sell sets of 25 photographs from them — but with several conditions attached: He would select the first 10 and let buyers choose the other 15.

But not just anybody with \$30,000 to spend in 1980 could purchase the collection he called "The Museum Set Edition of Fine Prints."

They would be sold only to people Adams judged serious collectors and only after they promised never to resell them.

If they left the buyer's family, they would have to go to a museum.

Among the few dozen who made the cut were the late Leonard and Marjorie Vernon, prominent California collectors whose set was given to the J. Paul Getty Museum in 2011 and

is now the centerpiece of "In Focus: Ansel Adams," which opens Tuesday.

Augmented by several other Adams' photos from the museum's collection, the exhibition marks the 30th anniversary of the photographer's death next month.

More than that, it provides a fresh look at both Adams' genius with a camera and in the darkroom.

"What sets them off, really," said Karen Hellman, who curated the exhibit, "is that they were created all within a span of years by Ansel Adams himself, at a time when he was printing with a particular intensity in mind."

Although the collection contains several instantly recognizable images, such as "Moon and Half Dome," photographed in California's Yosemite National Park in 1960, and "The Tetons and the Snake River" captured in Wyoming in 1942, it's safe to say even serious students of his work haven't seen photos quite like these.

The difference is likely best displayed in two large prints of arguably Adams' most famous work, "Moon-



This March 14, 2014 photo shows Karen Hellman, Assistant Curator Department of Photographs examining a photo exhibit entitled, "In Focus: Ansel Adams" at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

rise, Hernandez, New Mexico." The museum set photo printed by Adams in 1980 hangs side-by-side with one he printed in 1948.

In a brief video clip accompanying the exhibition, Adams describes how he captured the image on a late November afternoon in 1941.

He was returning to Santa Fe from a day of searching for subjects to photograph, when he caught a glimpse

out of his car window of an "extraordinary" scene of the moon rising over a cemetery.

"I practically ditched the car, and I had some companions with me," he recalled.

"I started yelling, you know, 'Get me the eight-by-ten, get me the tripod.'"

He managed to get off one shot before he lost the light from the setting sun that had been illuminat-

ing the crosses marking the cemetery's graves — and providing the element that made the photo.

Although the brilliance of Adams' work is clearly seen in the 1948 print, it's displayed in much more intense contrast in the 1980 version: The crosses are brighter, the night sky is darker, the buildings in the background and the landscape in the foreground are sharper. □

It's a boy for 'Intelligence' star Josh Holloway

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's a boy for Josh Holloway, who says "everything's calmer" with his second baby.

The 44-year-old actor said in an interview that he and his wife, Yessica Kumala, welcomed Hunter Lee Holloway earlier this year.

"He's here, he's upstairs. Six weeks," Holloway said Sunday while promoting his upcoming action film, "Sabotage." "We're calmer, which makes everything better. Yeah, your first one, you're definitely full of fear."

Holloway and Kumala have a 4-year-old daugh-



Josh Holloway arrives at PALEYFEST 2014 - "Lost" 10th Anniversary Reunion on Sunday, March 16, 2014 in Los Angeles, Calif.

Associated Press

ter, Java. The former "Lost" actor currently stars in the CBS series "Intelligence." □

MTV launches memorial site for character's death

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of young fans of MTV's "Teen Wolf" series are turning to a website set up by the network for people to collectively mourn the sudden death of one of the show's main characters. Twelve hours after "Teen Wolf" ended Monday night, more than 100,000 people had visited the TeenWolfMemorial.com

website for the character Allison Argent, who died after a mythical Japanese demon stabbed her with her sword. The death of Argent, played by actress Crystal Reed, wasn't entirely a surprise; MTV has been advertising that one



This Aug. 11, 2013, file photo, shows actress Crystal Reed from the MTV series "Teen Wolf," at the Teen Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

of the show's main characters would be killed off.

With the advertiser-supported website, MTV is looking to seize on fan interest by offering interviews with Reed and other cast members who offer "eulogies," as well as a place for

people to vent.

"Teen Wolf" is one of MTV's most popular shows, reaching a series high of 3.5 million viewers for the third-season premiere. About six in 10 viewers are female, with a median age of 21. □



In this Jan. 23, 2014 photo made available by the Miami Beach Police Dept. on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, shows Justin Bieber at the police station in Miami Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Police: Bieber claimed foot fracture in Florida

CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Justin Bieber claimed after a sobriety test in Florida that he was suffering from a hairline fracture in his right foot and made condescending comments to officers, according to a Miami Beach police document released Tuesday.

The police summary of Bieber's performance on various sobriety tests following his Jan. 23 arrest shows that the pop singer told officers he had injured his foot skateboarding three months earlier. The officer had noted that Bieber appeared to sway and have leg tremors during one of the tests, and also winced as if in pain.

"He appeared to have great difficulty," the report noted. Bieber, who has pleaded not guilty to driving under the influence and other charges, also told officers he was not drag racing in a rented Lamborghini along with R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff, who was driving a Ferrari when both were stopped. Bieber, who turned 20 on March 1, questioned why he was arrested in the first place.

The report describes Bieber as initially "agitated and condescending" and using frequent profanity when brought to the police station.

"He then got upset and said, 'I'm 19 years old. I'm just out having a good time,'" the report quoted him as saying. "What were you doing when you were 19?"

The officer replied that he was not driving around in a Lamborghini at that age.

"Yeah, well, I bet you didn't have millions of dollars in your bank account either," Bieber was quoted in reply.

The singer told officers that black Cadillac Escalade SUVs following the two sports cars were carrying security personnel and that the group was trying to avoid celebrity photographers who were tailing them.

The officer mentioned to another officer that it appeared Bieber and Sharieff were having difficulty driving the high-end cars.

Bieber was quoted as saying, "What? I've been driving Lamborghinis since I was 15."

Police drug tests found the presence of the active ingredient in marijuana and Xanax, an anti-anxiety drug. Traces of alcohol were also detected with a breath test, but the level was below the 0.02 threshold considered intoxicated for drivers under age 21.

Bieber faces a May 5 trial date. □

Jagger pays tribute to companion, Stones halt tour



Overall leader Alberto Contador sprays sparkling wine as he celebrates on the podium after completing the sixth stage of the Tirreno Adriatico cycling race, from Bucchianico to Porto Sant'Elpidio, Italy, Monday, March 17, 2014.

Associated Press

JILL LAWLESS
JOCELYN NOVECK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mick

Jagger paid poignant tribute to his late companion, designer L'Wren Scott, on Tuesday, calling her his "lover and best friend" and saying he was struggling to understand why she might have taken her own life. Jagger posted the message on his Facebook page as the Rolling Stones canceled their seven-date tour of Australia and New Zealand, "14 on Fire," in the wake of Scott's death. The noted fashion designer was found dead Monday in her Manhattan apartment, an apparent suicide.

"I am still struggling to understand how my lover and best friend could end her life in this tragic way," Jagger wrote. "We spent many wonderful years together and had made a great life for ourselves. She had great presence and her talent was much admired, not least by me."

He added: "I have been touched by the tributes that people have paid to her, and also the personal messages of support that I have received."

"I will never forget her."

Jagger was believed to

be on his way to New York after hearing the news in Australia. The band issued a statement expressing regret that the tour was being postponed.

Meanwhile, details emerged in Britain about financial troubles that Scott's eponymous label had been experiencing. Last month the designer canceled her London Fashion Week show, due to reported production delays. Accounts filed by Scott's LS Fashion Ltd. in London show the company had liabilities that exceeded assets by 4.24 million euros (\$5.9 million) as of Dec. 31, 2012.

The company's long and short-term debts totaled 6.75 million euros against assets, capital and reserves of 2.51 million euros, according to the accounts, which were filed in October.

That news raised questions about whether Scott's label, popular on Hollywood red carpets, would now be able to survive. Steven Frumkin, dean of business and technology at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, said that was an open question, but that despite the company's difficulties, the brand

could survive with skillful marketing.

He said it was crucial that the label also stake a claim to a wide audience, as Scott did in a recent collaboration with Banana Republic, and not just go after the high end of the market. Scott's designs have been popular with celebrities like Madonna, Oprah Winfrey, Tina Fey, Amy Adams, Nicole Kidman and first lady Michelle Obama.

Prominent fashion writer Robin Givhan noted that with a private company, it's impossible to know what the future holds. But she suggested that survival could be a challenge for the label, since it was "still quite young in its development and with a very limited audience. It certainly was not a household name."

She added that the fashion line was "based on a particular aesthetic sensibility that was quite personal."

Scott was adopted by a Mormon couple and grew up in small-town Utah. She made her way to Paris after high school where, aided by her 6-foot-3 height (some say it was 6-foot-4) and striking looks, she found work as a model for some prominent photographers.

But she became more interested in working with clothes than modeling them, and eventually made her name as a top stylist in Los Angeles and a costume designer for films including "Ocean's 13."

In 2006, Scott founded her label, with an initial collection based on the "Little Black Dress."

She became known for designs that had a vintage feel and bared little skin, such as her famous "headmistress" dress — prim, with three-quarter sleeves, but also close-fitting and stylish. □

We can't grow the gap away



Charles M. Blow
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The shocking level of income inequality in this country has set off alarms that grow louder by the day, but little seems to be underway to reverse the trend. As a January International Monetary Fund paper points out: "In the United States, the share of market income captured by the richest 10 percent surged from around 30 percent in 1980 to 48 percent by 2012, while the share of the richest 1 percent increased from 8 percent to 19 percent. Even more striking is the fourfold increase in the income share of the richest 0.1 percent, from 2.6 percent to 10.4 percent."

In fact, a study published last year in *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* found that the share of income going to the top 1 percent in America was higher than in other developed countries.

At the same time, the plight of the poor has grown worse and has become stubbornly resistant to improvement.

The rate of poverty in America remains stuck at the unacceptably high level of 15 percent. Among children, the rate is 22 percent.

We are reminded ad nauseam about the record number of Americans receiving food assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. What we hear far less about is that a record high percentage of poor families with children are not receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the federal government's primary welfare program. In 1997, only 36 percent of such families received no TANF benefits; that number in 2012 climbed to 74 percent.

It stands to reason, then, that food insecurity in this country remains alarming high. The U.S. Agriculture Department reported in September that 14.5 percent of the country, or 17.6 million U.S. households, "had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources" in 2012.

This widening gap between the hardscrabble and the high rollers is unseemly and unsustainable.

A January poll by the Pew Research Center and USA Today found that "65 percent believe the gap between the rich and everyone else has increased in the last 10 years."

A February poll by CNN/ORC International found that "more than six in 10 Americans strongly or somewhat agree that the government should work to narrow that gap, compared to 30 percent who believe it should not."

The president has called rising income inequality and lack of economic mobility "the defining challenge of our time." And he has been pushing an economic agenda aimed at making a dent in inequality, including raising the minimum wage, extending emergency unemployment benefits and, this week, moving to expand overtime pay.

While these moves would help, they are not nearly enough. Addressing this issue is not about ensuring an even redistribution of wealth while disregarding great ideas and hard work. Imbalance is built into a capitalistic economy. But the degree to which that imbalance has grown in this country is not only alarming; it could prove deleterious to our economic health.

There are some who suggest that the solution to this inequality problem - if indeed they concede that it is a problem - is simply to grow the economy. A February IMF paper pointed out the folly of such a tactic: "It would still be a mistake to focus on growth and let inequality take care of itself, not only because inequality may be ethically undesirable but also because the resulting growth may be low and unsustainable."

Furthermore, as the IMF pointed out in its January paper, inequality could, in fact, be an impediment to growth: "There is growing evidence that high income inequality can be detrimental to achieving macroeconomic stability and growth."

A December survey of several dozen economists by *The Associated Press* found that most believe that growing income inequality is hurting our economy.

We can't grow our way out of this obscenity. It's a barrier to growth. We must forthrightly address the issue with policy prescriptions. The IMF's list includes things like means-testing benefit programs, improving access to higher education and health care for the less well off, and "implementing progressive personal income tax rate structures" while "reducing regressive tax exemptions."

Surely we can figure out how to fix this. We just don't have the political will to do so. □



Paul Ryan's Irish amnesia



Timothy Egan
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In advance of St. Patrick's Day, I went time traveling, back to the 1840s and Ireland's great famine. On one side of the Irish Sea was Victorian England, flush with the pomp and prosperity of the world's mightiest empire. On the other side were skeletal people, dying en masse, the hollow-bellied children scrounging for nettles and blackberries.

A great debate raged in London: Would it be wrong to feed the starving Irish with free food, thereby setting up a "culture of dependency"? Certainly England's man in charge of easing the famine, Sir Charles Trevelyan, thought so. "Dependence on charity," he declared, "is not to be made an agreeable mode of life."

And there I ran into Paul Ryan. His great-great-grandfather had fled to America. But the Republican congressman was very much in evidence, wagging his finger at the famished. His oft-stated "culture of dependency" is a safety net that becomes a lazy-day hammock. But it was also England's excuse for lethal negligence.

There is no comparison, of course, between the de facto genocide that resulted from British policy, and conservative criticism of modern American poverty programs. But you can't help noticing the deep historic irony that finds a Tea Party favorite and descendant of famine Irish using the same language that English Tories used to justify indifference to an epic tragedy. The Irish historian John Kelly, who wrote a book on the great famine, was the first to pick up on these echoes of the past during

the 2012 presidential campaign. "Ryan's high-profile economic philosophy," he wrote then, "is the very same one that hurt, not helped, his forebears during the famine - and hurt them badly." What was a tired and untrue trope back then is a tired and untrue trope now. What was a distortion of human nature back then is a distortion now. And what was a misread of history then is a misread now.

Ryan boasts of the Gaelic half of his ancestry, on his father's side. "I come from Irish peasants who came over during the potato famine," he said last year during a forum on immigration. But with a head still stuffed with college-boy mush from Ayn Rand, he apparently never did any reading about the times that prompted his ancestors to sail away from the suffering sod. Centuries of British rule that attempted to strip the Irish of their language, their religion and their land had produced a wretched peasant class, subsisting on potatoes. When blight wiped out the potatoes, at least a million Irish died - one in eight people.

"The Almighty, indeed, sent the potato blight, but the English created the famine," wrote the fiery essayist John Mitchel, whose words bought him a ticket to the penal colony of Tasmania. What infuriated Mitchel was that the Irish were starving to death at the very time that rich stores of grain and fat livestock owned by absentee landlords were being shipped out of the country. The food was produced by Irish hands on Irish lands but would not go into Irish mouths, for fear that such "charity" would upset the free market, and make people lazy.

Ryan's running mate in 2012, Mitt Romney, made the Tory case with his infamous remark that 47 percent of Americans are moochers, "dependent upon government." Part of that dependence, he said, extended to people "who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you name it." Food - the gall!

You can't make these kinds of heartless remarks unless you think the poor deserve their fate - that they have a character flaw, born of public assistance. And there hovers another aw-

ful haunt of Irish history. In 2012, Ryan said that the network of programs for the American poor made people not want to work. On Wednesday, he went further, using the language of racial coding. This, after he told a story of a boy who didn't want his free school lunch because it left him with "a full stomach and an empty soul." The story was garbage - almost completely untrue.

"We have this tailspin of culture, in our inner cities in particular, of men not working and just generations of men not even thinking about working or learning the value and the culture of work." In other words, these people are bred poor and lazy.

Where have I heard that before? Ah, yes - 19th-century England. The Irish national character, Trevelyan confided to a fellow aristocrat, was "defective." The hungry millions were "a selfish, perverse, and turbulent" people, said the man in charge of relieving their plight.

You never hear Ryan make character judgments about generations of wealthy who live off their inheritance, or farmers who get paid not to grow anything. Nor, for that matter, does he target plutocrats like Romney who might be lulled into not taking risks because they pay an absurdly low tax rate simply by moving money around. Dependency is all one-way.

"The whole British argument in the famine was that the poor are poor because of a character defect," said Christine Kinealy, a professor of Irish studies and director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University. "It's a dangerous, meanspirited and tired argument."

And it wasn't true. The typical desperation scene of the famine was the furthest thing from a day in the hammock. Here's what one Quaker relief agent, William Bennett, found in a visit to County Mayo in 1847:

"We entered a cabin. Stretched in one dark corner, scarcely visible from the smoke and rags that covered them, were three children huddled together, lying there because they were too weak to rise, pale and ghastly ... perfectly emaciated, eyes sunk, voice gone, and evidently in the last stage of actual starvation." □

It's not just your grandmother's matzo anymore

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Amy Kritzer was growing up in Connecticut, her mother made lasagna from matzo each Passover.

The holiday, which commemorates the end of slavery for the Hebrews in ancient Egypt, calls for Jews to avoid leavened grain in products like regular pasta and bread, so it's matzo's biggest moment of the year. But lasagna?

"We almost never ate lasagna the rest of the year," Kritzer, 31, laughed. "I was sure I could live without it that one week. But it was like a little challenge, what to do with the matzo."

In recent years, matzo has undergone a makeover as the people who churn it out — by hand or machine — and the people who eat it have come up with new recipes and flavors for the large cracker with a big place at the Seder table — but a bad rep in the taste department.

"It turns out it's a pretty darn good canvas," said Lucinda Scala Quinn, executive editorial director of food at Martha Stewart Living, where the company's test kitchen has been coming up with new ways to use matzo. "We live in an age where everybody, it seems, is an inventive cook. Matzo has been this undiscovered ingredient waiting to be used beyond just kind of breaking it at the Seder," she said. This year, Passover begins the evening of April 14, and at Kritzer's house in Austin, Texas, where she often hosts Seders, matzo has some new buddies.

"Ironically, all of my non-Jewish friends love matzo," said Kritzer, who has a recipe blog called *Whatjewwannaeat*. "I think because they don't have to eat it, they're like, 'Matzo, it's delicious.' And all of the Jews are like, 'What, I don't want to eat this!'"

In addition to boxed matzo, from onion-poppy to chocolate-covered, we now have Matzolah, a commercial matzo granola that was 35 years in the making



This product image released by Martha Stewart Living shows a recipe for chocolate covered matzo, topped with nuts and dried fruit.

Associated Press

in Wayne Silverman's kitchen.

He put it on the market last year, after selling it in stores briefly over a decade ago, and earned accolades at Kosherfest, an annual showcase for kosher foods. There's maple nut, whole wheat maple nut and gluten-free cranberry orange. "When a Jewish person sees matzo they say, 'Oy, matzo.' Dry, sticks to the roof of my mouth. And when they see a product for Passover they say, 'Oy, Passover. Even worse.' We've tried to get people away from that notion," said Silverman, in Decatur, Ga.

He chose "The Trail Mix of the Exodus" as Matzolah's slogan.

Doug Freilich of Middle-town Springs, Vt., makes small batches of artisanal matzah he calls Vermatzah. He started production about six years ago with help from his wife and two daughters. He makes his matzo in the more traditional round shape using grain he grows and grinds himself, then pops it into his wood-fired oven and wraps

it in parchment paper with a delicate tie before gently placing six pieces in metal tins of bright green, red and yellow.

Freilich sells online and ships around the country, also using simple cardboard boxes. Sisterhoods at synagogues like his matzo, as do customers at food co-ops around the Northeast. "We want to stay small and sustainable and really